

Onorato starts second term

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato began his second four-year term Wednesday by promising to keep moving forward, saying, "We're just getting started." **3A**



THE Valley INDEPENDENT

An Edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW



Big Ben tired of talk

Ben Roethlisberger, the Pittsburgh Steelers' MVP in the eyes of almost everyone except his teammates, is getting tired of hearing about Jacksonville. **2B**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008

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INSIDE TODAY



Funnymen return

Striking writers walked picket lines as TV's late-night funnymen returned to the air Wednesday night after a two-month hiatus caused by the continuing labor dispute. Republican Mike Huckabee headed for Jay Leno's show and Democrat Hillary Clinton turned to David Letterman. **7A**

SPORTS



Stewart rewarded

Just one day after leading West Virginia to a decisive 48-28 win over Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl, Bill Stewart was named head coach of the Mountaineers today. He had been serving as interim head coach since Rich Rodriguez resigned to become head coach at Michigan. **1B**

DEATHS

- Cleotha J. Lyon, 98, of Springfield, Mass., formerly of Donora
 - Kathryn Andrews Meinhold, 68, formerly of Belle Vernon
 - Charles V. "C.V." Porter, 86, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township)
 - Mylah Marie Satterfield, 5 months, of Donora
- Page 4A**

WEATHER



Tonight
Clear 12°
Tomorrow
Sunny 38°
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Two sections, 18 pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Seniors, which appears each Friday in *The Valley Independent*.

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Expressway going private?

Idea spawned by the Mon Valley Progress Council appears to be gaining momentum.

By **JIM RITCHIE**

For The Valley Independent
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The daily traffic jams at the Squirrel Hill Tunnel might help complete the Mon-Fayette Expressway.

Supporters of the toll highway say the state's best hope to complete the \$3.6 billion section through Allegheny County is finding a private company to build it - starting with a bypass around the Parkway East tunnel.

"I would think that's probably a fair statement because of the large capital money needed to complete this project," said state Sen. Barry Stout, a Bentleyville Democrat and the project's most influential political backer.

The state Turnpike Commission continues to build other sections of the \$5 billion highway network between Pittsburgh and Morgantown, W.Va.

The 24-mile section in Allegheny County would run from Route 51 in Jefferson Hills to Oakland and Monroeville. Some money is available for design work, but the commission lacks construction dollars.

Stout envisions the commission designing the highway and securing right-of-way properties. Then, it could pass the work to a private compa-

ny, which would build the road in exchange for collecting toll revenue, he said.

"The turnpike might invest something like 20 percent, and then they could hand it off to the private sector so they could provide the bricks and mortar," Stout said. "That's the big ticket item."

Details would be negotiated, and legislation would have to be approved, he said. Messages seeking comment from the Turnpike Commission were not returned.

A bypass around the Squirrel Hill Tunnel would be the section most likely to lure investors, Stout said.

"The Squirrel Hill bypass would create volume, and it would relieve a lot of traffic congestion on

(See EXPRESSWAY, Page 2A)



Jeff Pikulsky/The Valley Independent

Washington County's new district attorney, Steven M. Toprani, is sworn in Wednesday by President Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca as Toprani's wife, Jennifer, holds the Bible.

Toprani takes oath as DA

New DA says he's "committed to leading this office with dedication and dignity, with reason and resolve, with virtue and with vigilance and with a blue-collar work ethic."

By **JEFF PIKULSKY**

Staff Writer
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WASHINGTON - District Attorney Steven M. Toprani vowed to usher in a new era of criminal prosecution in the county shortly after being sworn in Wednesday.

"Today is a significant day in my life," Toprani told a crowded Washington County courtroom. "The voters have bestowed a great honor and responsibility upon me, to ensure justice, to fight crime and to serve the citizens of Washington County well."

"I humbly and gratefully accept this duty ... I am committed to leading this office with dedication and dignity, with reason and resolve, with virtue and with vigilance and with a blue-collar work ethic."

Toprani, 29, of Carroll Township, took the oath of office among his family and friends, local law enforcement and members of the court system.

He enjoyed a landslide victory in the Nov. 6 election,

unseating long-time District Attorney John Pettit, who was seeking his seventh consecutive four-year term.

In one of the biggest upsets in Washington County history, Toprani, a Republican, ousted Pettit, 72, a Democrat from Canton Township. Toprani pulled in 65.5 percent of the vote to Pettit's 34.5 percent.

Pettit, who prosecuted more than 50,000 cases, is the target of a federal probe concerning alleged wrongdoing in his office.

As part of a grand jury investigation, federal agents and state police on Nov. 20 seized a computer, six boxes of documents and a 4-foot-tall safe from Pettit's offices.

After he was sworn in, Toprani said he has yet to hear from Pettit since the election.

"In terms of the FBI's action, it's a black cloud that hangs over our courthouse," Toprani said. "We're looking forward to rolling it back. Really, it's not relevant to the work that we're doing."

President Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca, who administered the oath of office to Toprani, said she met the new district attorney this summer through a mutual friend.

The president judge said she encountered Toprani later working the campaign trail.

"I was so impressed with his way of working a room ... he was very charismatic," she said. "He's genuine."

(See TOPRANI, Page 2A)

Iowa both cold, close on D-Day

Iowans set to put their stamp on an improbably wide-open presidential race.

By **CALVIN WOODWARD**
and **MIKE GLOVER**

Associated Press Writers

DES MOINES, Iowa — Presidential hopefuls urged their partisans to brave the cold and rally fellow Iowans to the caucuses today, a massive test of organization that held the key to victory in the first contests of the 2008 election season.

Capturing the urgency — and biting chill — in the air, Barack Obama implored his people, "Walk quick, talk fast."

Iowans, courted for months by candidates barnstorming their towns, swamping their airwaves and, in the later rounds, bickering with each other, finally give shape to the presidential race in a caucus ritual rooted in a centuries-old tradition of political activism.

Whether they would bring clarity to the national contest as it pivots to New Hampshire only five days later and then on to remaining states was just one more unknown in a campaign unpredictable at every turn.

"The two things that are clear to everyone here is that it's cold and it's close," said former Missouri Sen. Jim Talent, an adviser to Mitt Romney. Romney vastly outspent his GOP rivals, only to see his longtime lead in Iowa polls slip away.

The former Massachusetts governor goes into the caucuses fighting for a win against Mike Huckabee, a man who stood at 2 percent in the polls in Iowa less than six months ago and was a blip elsewhere too until his campaign took off.

Polls indicate an improbably tight three-way race for the Democrats, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama and John Edwards all knotted together — a crowd-pleasing nail-biter reflected in swollen crowds at Democratic venues and expectations of a hectic caucus night.

(See IOWA, Page 2A)

Priest charged with lying about mob ties

Rev. Joseph Sica's arrest is the first to result from a grand jury probe into the awarding of a Pocono casino license.

By **BRAD BUMSTED**

For The Valley Independent
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HARRISBURG - A Catholic priest, wearing a Roman collar and handcuffs, was arraigned Wednesday on a charge of lying to a grand jury about his alleged relationship with a deceased mob boss.

The Rev. Joseph Sica, an adviser to Pocono casino owner Louis DeNaples, was arrested outside his Scranton home and charged with perjury. Dauphin County Judge Todd A. Hoover said Sica wasn't a flight risk and released him on \$20,000 bail, secured by his signature.

A grand jury presentment alleges Sica lied about the extent of his relationship with Russell Bufalino, the late organized crime boss in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"These are merely allegations at this point," said Robert Daniels, one of Sica's lawyers.

Sica is the first person charged as a result of a grand jury investigation into whether DeNaples misled the state Gaming Control Board about having mob ties. His spokesman, Kevin Feeley, has denied any connection between DeNaples and organized crime.

Bill Genello, a spokesman for the Diocese of Scranton, called Sica's arrest a "deeply distressing development" and said the diocese granted Sica's request for a leave of absence. Sica, who lives at a church rectory, will not publicly celebrate Mass while he attends to his legal problems, Genello said in a state-

ment. DeNaples, of Scranton, was awarded a slot machine license in December 2006 for the Mount Airy resort in the Poconos. His casino opened in October.

Described as a "longtime friend" of DeNaples, Sica has accompanied him to public events including gambling board hearings and the ribbon-cutting for the casino.

First Assistant District Attorney Fran Chardo told the court that Sica called DeNaples on a cell phone while being transported from Scranton to Harrisburg for the hearing. A state trooper overheard DeNaples allegedly tell Sica, "Don't say anything. We'll take care of it." Sica then allegedly threatened the trooper, Chardo said.

Chardo said it was not a physical threat, but apparently involved some type of veiled threat to reveal

(See PRIEST, Page 2A)



Rev. Joseph Sica

VALLEY PEOPLE

Priest (FROM PAGE ONE)

"secrets" about a trooper Sica claimed to have learned by working with a security person at DeNaples' casino.

The judge said he was "concerned about the statements that were made."

Chardo told the court Sica owns a handgun and had \$1,000 cash on him when arrested.

"He owns a gun, which strikes me as odd," Chardo told the judge.

Asked outside the courtroom whether DeNaples likely will be charged, Chardo said, "We haven't foreclosed the possibility of other charges."

Asked whether Sica was being accused of lying to protect DeNaples, Chardo said, "I think that is what is being portrayed in the presentment."

Daniels did not address Chardo's allegations about the phone call to DeNaples or the reported threat to a trooper. Feeley could not be reached for comment.

Sica's other lawyer, Jane Penny, hustled him away after the hearing, and he refused to talk to reporters and television crews who followed him from the courthouse.

Daniels told the court that if there is a conviction for perjury, it is a crime for which "probation is in the standard range of sentencing." He said Sica has done "a lot of good deeds in the community" and that he

has a sister who relies on him for care.

Arguing against bail, Daniels said, "I'm sure it is humiliating enough to be dragged here in handcuffs."

The grand jury report said Sica's "relationship to known criminals was material to whether DeNaples had a relationship with the same criminals."

Bufalino of Kingston served lengthy prison sentences in the 1970s and '80s, the grand jury said. Chardo said the charges against Bufalino involved conspiracy to commit murder and racketeering.

Sica testified he met Bufalino once, by chance, in a hospital more than two decades ago. He denied having any sort of relationship with Bufalino or knowing him well.

But the grand jury said evidence showed Sica had a "substantial relationship" with Bufalino.

Bufalino attended a party to celebrate Sica's ordination, and a photograph was taken of Sica with Bufalino and his wife, Carrie Bufalino, the grand jury said. "Words cannot express my thankfulness to both of you. You have done a lot for me and mean a lot to me," Sica allegedly wrote to the Bufalinos in a note accompanying the picture.

Another photo was presented to the grand jury, showing Sica, Russell Bufalino and his nephew,

Angelo Bufalino, at a barbecue. In another picture, Sica was seated at a table with the Bufalinos and William D'Elia, who allegedly heads the Bufalino crime family.

The grand jury presentment hinted at possible cooperation from D'Elia, saying "D'Elia was aware of a relationship between Sica and Bufalino."

The grand jury said Sica in 1982 wrote to Ginny Thornburgh, wife of former Gov. Dick Thornburgh, on behalf of his "friend," Russell Bufalino, after Bufalino was sentenced to prison. Sica claimed federal agents framed Bufalino.

"It is all a conspiracy against a man who has lived a life of honesty, generosity, justice and belief in the American system," said Sica's letter, written on letterhead of the Church of the Annunciation in Williamsport, where Sica was an assistant pastor.

Yesteryear



This picture of the DiRocco sisters was taken in 1945. Showing off their new dresses, from left, are Irene Orsini who now resides in Marietta, Ga., and Dorothy Paterline and Norma Rollison, both of Charleroi. The photo was submitted by David Paterline.

If you have a good old-time photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Weather

Friday

High 38
Low 22

Saturday

High 45
Low 38

Sunday

High 50
Low 38

Monday

High 58
Low 42

Tuesday

High 59
Low 43

Toprani (FROM PAGE ONE)

He believes in what he's doing."

Toprani will head a staff of more than 20 with an annual budget of about \$1.5 million.

His campaign pitch involved streamlining operations in the office and making it more modern technologically.

"We're going to do that principally through computer updates," he said. "We're going to bring in voicemail, computer systems and case management systems. We're also going to institute, for the first time in 24 years, written office policies. We think that will shield the county from any harm and really raise the practice in the office both ethically and professionally."

Illicit drug trafficking is one of Toprani's top concerns. He plans to work intensively with the drug task force.

"Drug crimes are the biggest problem I think that we face, it spills over into other areas and we just can't tolerate it any more on our streets," he said. "One of the things we anticipate doing early on is reorganizing the drug task force, giving them better tools, better training, better wages, better equipment to go out and do that hard job that they do."

Toprani alluded to his Mid-Mon Valley roots and drug problems he wants to address there and throughout the county.

"I don't think the Valley is unique, but I will focus my efforts there. It's where I call home. I care deeply about the communities there just like I do around the county," he said. "I'm

happy to bring representation of the Mon Valley to this office."

Monday will be Toprani's first day on the job.

He said his campaign chairman, Steven Fischer, 32, of Washington, will become his chief of staff.

Fischer has served as a captain in the Army National Guard.

Craig R. McKay, 62, of Bethel Park, a former assistant U.S. attorney in Pittsburgh, will become an assistant district attorney, Toprani said.

J. Michael Aaron, 56, of Cecil, a former Cecil police officer and former Camden, N.J., police detective, will be named a lead detective, according to Toprani.

Toprani said he will begin naming other office personnel beginning next week.

"I expect a very smooth transition," he said. "We have a really great team that we're going to bring in."

Toprani called his decisive victory in the election "humbling."

He began campaigning a year ago.

"The support that we got was just overwhelming. It was just deeply humbling," he said. "Every indication, we thought it would be within a few points. It was sort of anti-climactic in the end to get the margin that we did but I was very proud of that and very humbled by it."

Toprani said Wednesday's ceremony was surreal.

"This was almost an out of body experience. It was really tremendous," he said.

Toprani has worked as an attorney for the last four years.

He first specialized in civil bankruptcy and disability cases at a private legal practice in South Fayette.

He then worked as a state government attorney for two years with the state Department of Public Welfare.

Commenting after the ceremony, long-time Charleroi attorney and former district attorney Herman J. Bigi gave Toprani his full endorsement.

Bigi said he respects Toprani personally and professionally and that the new district attorney's youthful vigor will be an asset to the county.

"His is just an embodiment of morality, integrity and energy," Bigi said. "He will bring a whole new dimension to that office in the nature of running it the way it should be. He'll do one heck of a job as district attorney."

Other elected officials were also sworn into office during ceremonies Wednesday morning.

Those included two new officeholders, Mary Jo Poknis, of Fallowfield Township, who was sworn in as the new register of wills and clerk of orphans court, and Joshua Kanalis, the new magisterial district judge in Centerville.

Kanalis recently wrapped up working as a California borough police officer and a California Area High School teacher to begin his duties.

Incumbents taking oaths of office were Commissioners J. Bracken Burns, Diana Irey and Larry Maggi, district judges David Mark and Larry Hopkins; Francis L. King, county treasurer; Barbara Gibbs, clerk of courts; Tim Warco, coroner, and Phyllis Ranko Matheny, prothonotary.

Expressway (FROM PAGE ONE)

that parkway," he said.

If the bypass is to be built, there must be some private funding, said state Rep. Joe Markosek, D-Monroeville, chairman of the state House Transportation Committee.

"There simply isn't enough money laying around to build vast new highways unless you find new sources of income, which in this case would be private income," he said.

County Chief Executive Dan Onorato said he supports a private partner. "Let's look at what's out there to get it done. We don't always have to look to taxes," he said.

The private/public funding concept is nothing new for highway infrastructure, having been used in other parts of the country. But the idea of using it specifically to build the most costly section of the expressway got its birth last spring in the Mid-Mon Valley.

In May, the Mon Valley Progress Council announced it was seeking letters of interest from firms to develop the 24-mile section of the expressway that cuts through the heart

of Allegheny County.

That proposed highway section, as planned, would form a "Y," connecting Route 51 in Large with Pittsburgh and Monroeville.

One option included in the request would be to develop the Squirrel Hill Tunnel bypass as a separate project. That option would include construction of the left leg of the "Y," taking the expressway into Pittsburgh.

The 24-mile expressway section currently has a price tag of approximately \$3.6 billion. Separating the Squirrel Hill Tunnel bypass could cut that price by an estimated \$300 million.

Four firms submitted letters of interest:

■ The Carlyle Group - A U.S. private global investment firm with major and specific toll road development and financing experience.

■ MacQuarie Securities (USA) Inc. - A diversified international provider of specialist financial and investment banking services.

■ Cintra Developments L.L.C. - A worldwide leader in the concession industry,

Cintra both develops public/private partnerships and operates facilities.

■ OHL Infrastructure - A major international firm in the delivery of hundreds of toll road projects.

In late 2006, Carlyle, MacQuarie, and Cintra each submitted letters of interest with the state to lease the mainline of the turnpike.

Joe Kirk, executive director of the progress council, noted that Stout has often spoken of the need for innovative funding sources to complete the project.

"Barry's statements and his long-time commitment to this project are encouraging," Kirk said.

He said public officials - especially a key player in the transportation issues such as Stout - sounding off in favor of a public/private partnership will help the idea to gain momentum.

The bottom line is without some new funding coming in, somewhere in the not-too-distant future we're going to see this project go into some kind of hiatus," Kirk said.

Iowa (FROM PAGE ONE)

Caucuses begin at 7 p.m. — 8 p.m. EST — and with that evening curtain-raiser, most candidates filled their calendars for today with still more speeches and campaign appearances.

But while the talk was expected to go on past one more soundown, the time for listening was rapidly drawing to a close.

The persuasive power of rhetoric was suddenly yielding in importance to the availability of baby sitters to help people get to the caucuses.

Campaigns were ready with snow shovels if needed, and used the phone and Facebook online to encourage voters. Romney said his campaign made 12,000 calls on Sunday alone.

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Valley briefs

Hempfield crash leaves 3 injured

Three people were injured in a three-vehicle accident early Tuesday in Hempfield, state police said.

The accident at 12:40 a.m. happened when a 1995 Acura Integra driven at a high rate of speed north on Wendel Road by Joshua R. Fox, 23, of West Newton, struck the left rear of a 2006 Nissan Sentra operated by Paul J. Schnupp Sr., police said. Fox's vehicle swerved into the road's southbound lane, where it struck head-on a 2003 Honda Civic driven by Jeremy J. Baloga, 19, of Irwin, police said.

Fox and his passenger, Kaylan E. Severino, 19, of North Huntingdon, were transported to unspecified local hospitals. Their injuries and conditions were not reported by police.

Baloga was transported by medical helicopter to Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Information about his condition was not made available.

I-70 reopens after accident

The eastbound lanes of Interstate 70 reopened about 1 p.m. Wednesday following a morning accident.

Workers cleared a tractor-trailer that wrecked on I-70 about 7 a.m., closing the highway in Fayette County and detouring traffic.

The highway was closed between the Mount Pleasant Exit 51A and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 58, according to state police at the Belle Vernon barracks in Rostraver Township.

Drivers were detoured onto Routes 31 and 119.

Publisher finds Clinton charismatic

Billionaire newspaper publisher Richard Mellon Scaife, who spent millions investigating President Clinton, said the two had a long lunch over the summer and that he found the ex-president to be charismatic.

Scaife, a central figure in the "vast right-wing conspiracy" that Hillary Rodham Clinton once said was attacking her husband, also says philandering "is something that Bill Clinton and I have in common."

Scaife, publisher of *The Valley Independent* and numerous other western Pennsylvania newspapers, made the remarks in an interview with *Vanity Fair*, his first interview in eight years, according to the magazine. The comments appear in the February issue in a story about Scaife's troublesome divorce from Margaret Ritchie Battle Scaife.

In the story, Scaife described the lunch at Clinton's New York office as "very pleasant."

"I never met such a charismatic man in my whole life," Scaife said.

Scaife, a billionaire heir to the Mellon banking and oil fortune, said he tried to show Clinton that he isn't "a total Republican libertarian" by talking about their mutual friend, U.S. Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa.

Scaife also told the magazine: "I don't want people throwing rocks at me in the street. But I believe in open marriage."

Clinton gave Scaife an autographed copy of his book and Scaife said he later sent \$100,000 to the Clinton Global Initiative.

Forbes magazine has estimated Scaife's wealth at \$1.8 billion.



Keith Hodan/For The Valley Independent

Dan Onorato is sworn in for a second term as chief executive of Allegheny County by Debra Todd, left, justice-elect of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, during his Inauguration ceremony Wednesday at Soldiers & Sailors Military Museum & Memorial in Pittsburgh. At Onorato's side is his wife, Shelly.

'We're just getting started'

Dan Onorato vows to keep moving forward as he starts his second term as Allegheny County's chief executive.

By JUSTIN VELLUCCI

For The Valley Independent
jvellucci@tribweb.com

After a decade of radical governmental change, Allegheny County has hit a rhythm it can follow for another four years, its leader said Wednesday.

County Chief Executive Dan Onorato kicked off his inauguration by pledging to stay the course on spending, economic development and government consolidation in his second term.

"Four years ago today, I stood on this very stage and said to the people of Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania that it was time to take action and time to move forward," said Onorato, surrounded by family and local leaders at Soldiers & Sailors Military Museum and Memorial, Oakland. "My fellow citizens, that future is upon us. And the proof is all around us."

Onorato illustrated his points with first-term accomplishments -- from row office and 911 center consolidation and \$4 billion in area development to the creation of shovel-ready land at Pittsburgh International Airport and the restructuring of the Kane Regional Centers.

Onorato's speech referenced more than 30 accomplishments. It offered fewer than 10 second-term goals, such as the public-private renovation of some county park facilities, the completion of the 335-mile Great Allegheny Passage bike trail, and the expanded revitalization of area business districts.

"We focus on the past because we're very proud; I'm very proud of what we've accomplished," Onorato said after his speech. "We're not going to change courses just because it's a second term. ... What I'm say-

ing today is, 'We're just getting started.'"

Onorato is the county's second chief executive. Voters threw out the old three-member county commissioner system in the late 1990s, and in 2005 approved the elimination of longtime row offices such as the coroner and prothonotary.

In his second term, Onorato said he would consider promoting more consolidation by offering one-time grant help for police or fire departments looking to combine. He also has pledged to reform how Port Authority spends money.

Onorato's speech, however, did not mention one key development in his administration: his Harrisburg-endorsed push to enact a new 10 percent drink tax and a \$2-per-day rental car tax to help generate matching funds for Port Authority.

"I didn't think it needed to be mentioned because it's mentioned every day of the week," Onorato said.

Some said Onorato's decision to stay the course could prove to be a beneficial route.

"I don't see a plan for the next four years, except (more) of the same," said political analyst Bill Green, after reading Onorato's speech. "That's probably not bad, continuing on the course as he has."

"Dan Onorato is still on his plans, still on target," said county Councilman Bob Macey, D-West Mifflin. "I just think he's staying focused on what needs to be done."

Macey said he hopes the second term involves efforts to bolster more development at industrial parks in McKeesport and West Mifflin, growth at the Allegheny County Airport and the expansion of degrees available from the Community College of Allegheny County.

Councilman Vince Gastgeb said Onorato's speech recapped the executive's first four years. Gastgeb wants more details, however, on agenda items such as government consolidation.

"The consolidation interests me," said Gastgeb, a Bethel Park Republican. "The next step needs to be outlined."

Region adds 1,600 jobs in November

Employment gains in seven-county area were concentrated in service-providing industries.

By C.M. MORTIMER

For The Valley Independent
cmortimer@tribweb.com

The seven-county Pittsburgh region's economy added 1,600 jobs in November, due mostly to gains concentrated in service-providing industries, the state said in a report released Wednesday.

The number of jobs in the seven-county Pittsburgh region increased for the third consecutive month to 1,153,900, up from 1,152,300 in October. November's total was the highest level since June, when the jobs count

reached 1,156,000.

However, November's 1,600 increase was the smallest of the past three months, the state said.

The Pittsburgh region's jobless rate dropped four-tenths of a percentage point to 4.2 percent in November, the first decrease since June, the state said. The 4.2 percent rate was below the national rate of 4.7 percent.

Service providers set a record high job level at 994,900, surpassing June's high of 993,300. A large portion of the 4,400 increase was due to seasonal gains in retail trade, which was boosted by the openings of an Office Depot and a Lowe's Home Center in Allegheny County.

The state said the Pittsburgh region added 3,000 jobs over the year.

Four sectors - education and health services, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and government - each gained more than 1,000 jobs since November 2006.

In a separate survey, the number of residents in Washington, Westmoreland, Fayette, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver and Butler counties who were working in November increased slightly to 1,153,200, from 1,152,100 in October.

The number of unemployed workers in the region dropped to 50,500 in November, compared to 55,700 in October.

Both the residential employment and jobless figures are adjusted for seasonal employment factors, the state said.

Oppenheimer & Co. analyst Terry McEvoy.

Another mortgage player, Washington Mutual, slashed its dividend on Dec. 10, down to 15 cents a share from 56 cents.

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Deep freeze gripped Mon Valley in 1958

Ron PAGLIA



Mother Nature gave area residents the cold shoulder as they welcomed the new year in January 1958.

Continuing a winter pattern that began in December, frigid weather, moving from Canada, tumbled temperatures in the region on January 1 and promised a further skid in the mercury the next day.

According to *The Daily Independent* of 50 years ago yesterday, the temperature at Lock Four at 7 a.m. was 16 degrees. It had warmed only two degrees by 11 a.m.

Even colder weather was forecast for that night, when the mercury was expected to skid to around seven degrees above zero.

While snow created hazardous problems for motorists in some areas, the cold weather also stalled work on a Schoonmaker Avenue improvement project in Monessen. Contractor Frank Donatelli of Pittsburgh said sub-freezing temperatures made it "impossible" to pour concrete.

"Unless the temperature is 35 degrees or over, we are unable to continue with the concrete paving," Donatelli told *The Daily Independent*. "That phase of the project will have to be suspended until the weather warms."

The Schoonmaker project, which extended from near 17th St. to Sixth St., had played havoc with traffic in Monessen since November of 1957. Motorists entering the city from the west were rerouted over a long detour. Rainy weather and snow repeatedly delayed progress in December.

Deplorable conditions extended through the first week of January 1958 as a major snowfall blanketed the area on January 7.

The newspaper reported that driving conditions throughout the area were "extremely hazardous," although state and local police reported no major accidents.

Practically every road in the Mon Valley "had a glass-like finish to greet motorists on their way to work," *The Independent* said.

Local and state crews were called out at 6 a.m. to spread ashes and/or sand on the main roads.

Snow began falling around 2 a.m., when temperatures fell to 32 degrees. It dropped to 30 at 10:30 a.m. and remained there at noon, according to figures furnished at Lock Four.

Much of the same was predicted for the next day, with temperatures ranging from 12 degrees to the 20's in the offing.

The deep freeze wasn't limited to the Mon Valley.

Snow piled a foot deep in New England and swirled into central Florida and parts of Alabama on January 8 in the bitterest storm of the season.

United Press International reported that deep cold settled over the Eastern seaboard and the Gulf states as high winds from the first onslaught abated. Florida growers feared damage to their crops.

Across the nation, at least 20 deaths were attributed to the weather in the past 24 hours.

Below-freezing temperatures of 22 in the north and 26 in the citrus belt were expected. New Yorkers bundled up as the mercury dipped to 15 degrees. The snowstorm snarled traffic throughout the east.

The extended forecast, made without the benefit of the sophisticated meteorology equipment that exists today, called for another mass of Arctic air moving in from Canada and knocking temperatures into the low teens during the day and near zero at night.

Cloudy skies, snow flurries and below-normal temperatures were forecast for three more days before conditions would begin moderating.

The elements also created some problems for firemen who responded to an alarm at the Ninth Street School in Charleroi on January 7.

The fire, which officials said started from a defective flue in the furnace room in the basement, damaged a portion of the cellar and first floor of the school. Damage was estimated at \$10,000 to the basement and \$2,000 each to four classrooms.

Volunteer firefighters from Charleroi, Lock Four and Monessen answered the three-alarm blaze and confined it to the basement and first floor.

Charleroi School District officials were forced to alter schedules for students because of the fire.

Ninth Street students were to attend classes from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Fifth Street School. Students at the latter facility had classes from 7:50 a.m. to noon.

Classes would not resume at Ninth Street School until damage had been repaired. School officials said that would take about two months.

Two Charleroi firemen, M.E. Miller and Bob Waggoner, were injured and were treated at Charleroi-Monessen Hospital and released.

Ninth Street School students, directed by Principal Marie Carson, were evacuated without incident.

The weather did not prevent five newly-elected Washington County officials from taking their oaths of office. Sheriff Grant Furlong, Controller Peter Elish, Recorder of Deeds John D. Woodward and Jury Commissioner John Crockett, all Democrats, and Jury Commissioner Charles F. Connors, a Republican, were sworn in at ceremonies at the courthouse in Washington. Conducting the traditional festivities were Common Pleas Court Judges Roy I. Carson, George T. Cummins and David H. Weiner.

State Rep. A.V. Capano, who also was a solicitor for the sheriff's office, presented Furlong's warrant to the judges. Furlong, who was beginning his fourth term as sheriff, and Capano were both from Donora.

Woodward, a Charleroi resident, began his third term; Elish, a political veteran from Canonsburg, was in his second term; Connors, of Washington, his third term in the jury commissioners' office, and Crockett, who lived in California, was a newcomer to the row office group.

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POLICE LOG

Fallowfield

■ Officers responded 2:35 a.m. Tuesday to a fight involving roughly 20 people at intersection of Dawson and Wilson roads, police reported. The incident is under investigation.

State police, Belle Vernon

■ Police are investigating a case of criminal mischief reported at Baker's Pub in North Charleroi. Sometime during the hours of 2:45 and 10 a.m. Sunday, someone threw a beer bottle that damaged a single pane glass window at the establishment.

■ Aaron Cunningham, 34, of North Charleroi, was charged with simple assault/domestic violence after he allegedly struck Deanne Phillips, 30, at 4 a.m. Sunday at their residence. Police said Phillips suffered a broken nose and a concussion as a result of the assault.

■ Cheryl Avery, 43, and Adam Moody, 33, both of 238 Lowber Road, Jefferson Township, were cited for disorderly conduct 12:40 a.m. today after allegedly making unreasonable noise at an unreasonable hour outside their residence.

State police, Greensburg

■ Irwin Abbott, 55, of West Newton, reported that someone entered his residence on an unspecified date and removed a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun.

Abbott also reported that during the hours of 2 p.m. Dec. 19 and 4:45 p.m. Dec. 20, someone ordered Pay Per View movies on his Direct TV account.

Southwest Regional

■ Police are investigating a burglary at 140 Spring St., Coal Center, sometime from 7 p.m. Monday to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Residents Joseph Scorza and Eric Zyski reported someone kicked in the rear door and stole an HP laptop computer, about 40 DVDs and a cell phone charger. Anyone with information is asked to call police at (724) 929-8484.

■ Justin Michael Kilvady, 26, of 756 Fellsburg Road, Belle Vernon, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after a hypodermic needle was found in his jacket pocket following a traffic stop in Graham Street, Belle Vernon, at 10:37 a.m. Monday, police said.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Financial aid night planned

Ringgold High School seniors and parents/guardians are invited to a Financial Aid Night 6 to 8 p.m. today at the high school cafeteria. A Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) representative will conduct a presentation on paying for post secondary education and will be able to answer questions and concerns with the FAFSA form. For information, call Diane Garry at Ringgold High School at (724) 258-2200, extension 115.

Local blood drives scheduled

The American Red Cross will hold the following local blood drives:

Friday - noon to 5:30 p.m. Speers Borough Building, 300 Phillips Street.

Monday - 1 to 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 601 West Main St., Monongahela.

All types are needed; however, O negative, A positive and A and B negatives are especially low in supply. For information, call 1-800-542-5663.

GLENN — Marcia A. Glenn, of New Bedford, Mass., formerly of Charleroi, on Sunday, Dec. 23. John McGinley, Belle Vernon.*

LYON — Cleotha J. Lyon, 98, of Springfield, Mass., formerly of Donora, on Tuesday, Dec. 25. House of Jackson Memorial Chapel, Donora.*

MEINHOLD — Kathryn Andrews Meinhold, 68, formerly of Belle Vernon, on Sunday, Dec. 30. Ferguson Funeral Home and Crematory Inc., Belle Vernon.*

PORTER — Charles V. Porter, 86, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), on Wednesday, Jan. 2. James C. Stump Funeral Home Inc., Sweeney Plan/Rostraver Township.*

SATTERFIELD — Mylah Marie Satterfield, of Donora, on Tuesday, Jan. 1. House of Jackson Memorial Chapel, Donora.

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
CERVANTES, Antonio E.*

SULLENBERGER, Edward L. Sr.*

WINDOM, Odell*

* See death notice

Antonio E. Cervantes Monessen

Antonio Edward "Tony" Cervantes, 63, of Monessen, was called by the Lord and the Angels in Heaven on Monday, Dec. 31, 2007, in his home after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born March 1, 1944, in Monessen, a son of the late Jesus and Mary Cervantes. He was a lifelong citizen of Monessen. Mr. Cervantes, who worked in the construction field, retired from Corning Glass in 1989. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Joyce Schroyer Cervantes, formerly of Fayette City; two sons, Joseph Cervantes and wife, Donna, of Jacksonville, Fla., and John "Jack" Cervantes and wife, Denise, of Monessen; two daughters, Lisa Latkanich and husband, Michael, of Rostraver Township, and Angela Cervantes, of Jacksonville; three sisters, Patricia Neil, Margarita Russell and husband, Jeff, and Mary Cervantes; grandchildren, Jessica, Joe and Monasita Cervantes, Nicole and Toni Lynn Cervantes, and Michael and Marcus Latkanich; two step-grandchildren, Stephanie and Dillon Lankford; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family members, all of whom have been part of this thoughts and prayers. Friends will be received at the ROBERT A. BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC., Grand Boulevard and Marion Avenue, Monessen (724-684-3700), on Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. and Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 5, at 10 a.m. in the funeral home with the Rev. Christine Ingold officiating. Interment will follow in Belle Vernon Cemetery. Tony will be deeply missed by family and friends.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Marcia A. Glenn New Bedford, Mass. Formerly of Charleroi

Marcia A. McGinley Glenn, 83, of New Bedford, Mass., formerly of Charleroi, died Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007, while visiting with family in North Carolina. Mrs. Glenn was born in Charleroi in 1924, the daughter of Howard "Mugsy" and Mathilde Martinet McGinley. She was a 1942 graduate of Charleroi High School, Chatham College and

Pittsburgh Hospital School of Nursing, where she met her husband, the late Dr. John W. Glenn, of Ford City. During World War II they served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. After Dr. Glenn's surgical residency at Boston City Hospital, they moved to New Bedford in 1952. During her 55 years in Massachusetts, Mrs. Glenn was active in many service and church organizations. She served many years as a registered nurse at Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Massachusetts. She is survived by her children, Michael (Susan) Glenn, of London, Utah, Sue (Steve) Tuck, of Long Island, N.Y., Mary Ward-Tumm (Dick Tumm), of Washington Crossing, and John (Stephanie) Glenn, of North Stonington, Conn.; eight grandchildren; one brother, John (Liz) McGinley, of Belle Vernon; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters-in-law, Pat Pepper, of Ford City, and Sister Mary Michael, of the Divine Providence Religious Order. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in New Bedford on Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, followed by interment in St. Mary's Cemetery. Arrangements are being handled by the SAUNDERS-DWYER FUNERAL HOMES, 495 Park St., New Bedford, Mass. 02740 (508-994-0100). The family suggests memorial contributions be made in Marcia A. McGinley Glenn's name to the charity of one's choice. www.saunders-dwyerfuneralhomes.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Cleotha J. Lyon Springfield, Mass. Formerly of Donora

Cleotha Jean Lyon, 98, of Springfield, Mass., formerly of Donora, departed this life on Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007. Born Jan. 11, 1909, in Newton, Ga., she was the only surviving child of the late George and Leah Lyon. Cleotha was preceded in death by five brothers and three sisters, Willie, Sylvester, Ozell, Verdell, Walter and Cecilia Lyon, and Willa Mae Sheppard and Iola Palmer; and her only grandson, Michael A. Jones, on March 17, 2006. After leaving Georgia, Cleotha spent most of her adult life in Donora, where she was active in the life of Quinn Chapel AME Church. Over the years, she was a member of the following organizations: Senior Choir, Trustee Board, Missionary Society and president of the Ladies Progressive Club. Additionally, she served as director of the Children's Choir, was a Sunday school teacher, church clerk and secretary of the annual conference for the AME Pittsburgh District. Cleotha also was a lifetime member of Keystone Temple No. 92 in Donora. After relocating to Springfield in April 2001, she immediately joined Canaan Baptist Church of Christ under the Rev. W.C. Watson Jr. At Canaan, she was a member of the Women's Ministry and an honoree of the 2005 Seniors Extravaganza. She also was a faithful member of the Golden Age Club, Winchester Square. She leaves to cherish her loving memory her only child, Nathaniel (Bernice) Jones, of Springfield Gardens, N.Y.; two sisters-in-law, Libelia "Bea" and Lois Lyon, of Donora; four grandchildren, Natalie Dorm, of Springfield, Karen (Jerry) Fox, of Springfield

DEATH NOTICES

Gardens, Tina Jones, of Philadelphia, and Roni Jones, of Springfield; six great-grandchildren, Chanae James, Kristin (Ryan) Blakeslee, Michael Jones Jr., Brandon (Gillian) James, and Tracy and Kevin Fox; three great-grandchildren, Kayla and Destini James and Jadon Blakeslee; one cousin, Lucille Cain; and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and church family. Friends will be received Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. in Quinn Chapel AME Church, 317 First St. and Watkins Avenue, Donora, where a funeral service will be held Saturday, Jan. 5, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Eleanor Williams, pastor of Wayman-Quinn Chapel AME Church, Reed Avenue and McKee Way, Monessen, officiating. Pastor Jesse Frost will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. Arrangements have been gently placed in the hands of The House of Jackson Memorial Chapel, 1324 Meldon Ave., Donora (724-379-5420). Funeral director is Karl Jackson.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Kathryn Andrews Meinhold Formerly of Belle Vernon

Kathryn Andrews Meinhold, 68, formerly of Belle Vernon, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, at the home of her daughter in Donora. A daughter of the late Clarence and Lavetta Jones Andrews, she was born in Briceville, Tenn., on Aug. 22, 1939. Kathryn was a member of the Char-Belle Free Methodist Church of Belle Vernon. Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Chris Piot, of Charleroi, and Suzanne and Wally Franzaglio, of Donora; one son and daughter-in-law, Daryl and Bonnie Aitken, of Donora; five sisters, Mary Alice Griffith, of Ohio, Barbara D'Adamo, of New Kensington, Clara DiAntonio, of Holiday Park, Peggy Hill, of Florida, and Betty Jo Shaffer, of Greensburg; one brother, Kenneth Andrews, of Greensburg; five grandchildren, Jason, Justin, Aaron and Ethan Piot and Heather Aitken; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Dorothy Andrews and Edna Wolfe; and six brothers, Roy, William, Richard, one in infancy, Bobby Jo and Paul Andrews. A memorial service will be Saturday, Jan. 5, at 11 a.m. in the Char-Belle Free Methodist Church, Arch Street, Belle Vernon, with the Rev. Eugene Spear officiating. The FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME and CREMATORY INC., (724-929-5300), 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, www.fergusonfuneralhome-andcrematory.com, handled arrangements.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Charles V. Porter Rostraver Township

Charles Vance "C.V." Porter, 86, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008. Born in Rostraver Township on Feb. 11, 1921, he was the son of the late Charles V. Sr. and Ruth A. Shupe Porter. C.V. was a retired farmer, having operated the Porter family farm throughout his

entire life and was also employed by Pritts Feed & Supply, in Smithton. He was a member of Olive Branch Baptist Church in Rostraver Township, where he served as a Sunday school superintendent and teacher, deacon and trustee. C.V. also was a member of the board of directors of the former Union National Bank in West Newton. He is survived by his wife, E. Muriel Show Porter; two sons and daughters-in-law, Charles A. and Patricia Porter, and Kevin S. and Judy Porter, all of Rostraver Township; and eight grandchildren, Malerie E., Jonathan C., Stephanie N., Rachel E., Amanda R., Charles W., Joshua M. and Vanessa F. Porter. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Byers and Sarah Taylor. Friends will be received Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. and Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the JAMES C. STUMP FUNERAL HOME INC., 580 Circle Drive, Belle Vernon/Rostraver Township (724-929-7934); www.jamesstumpfuneralhome.com. Family and friends are asked to gather in Olive Branch Baptist Church in Rostraver Township on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 11 a.m. for a funeral service with the Rev. George Lammay officiating. Interment will follow in West Newton Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Edward L. Sullenberger Sr. Fallowfield Township

Edward L. Sullenberger Sr., 56, of Fallowfield Township, went to be with the Lord on Monday, Dec. 31, 2007, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born July 23, 1951, in North Charleroi, a son of Audrey Mackey Muia and husband, Eugene, of Webster, and the late Edward Sullenberger. Ed was a graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School with the Class of 1970. He was a member of Mingo Presbyterian Church, where he sang with the church choir. Ed was a junior fireman with the Webster Fire Department and a former fireman with the Charleroi Fire Department. He also was a member of Mon Valley ARC, where he coached basketball, a former member of the Charleroi Midget Football League, and he was a football coach with the Charleroi Midget League and the Charleroi Area Middle School. Ed was a baseball umpire with the Charleroi and Fallowfield Township Softball and Baseball Association. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and was a member of the Sinnamoning Sportsmen's Club. Ed was employed by Lifesteps as a residential companion for mentally challenged adults and part-time by Tom Clark Motor Sports. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Donna Ganassi Sullenberger; one daughter Lisa Kearns and husband, Bill, of Charleroi; three sons, Edward L. Sullenberger Jr., of West Newton (Turkeytown), Jason Sullenberger, of Monessen, and Jared Sullenberger, at home; three grandchildren, Hailey and Kaleb Sullenberger and Jerimiah Kearns; his sister, Charlotte "Cookie" Newstrom and husband, Peter, of Webster (Rostraver Township); two nieces and one nephew, Sherri Cappelanga, Shirley Green and Peter Lee Newstrom and their families; a special

uncle and cousin, Uncle Albert and cousin Albert; his closest friends, John, Amy, Laurie, Sandy, Harold, Emily and Randy; his maternal grandparents, Herbert and Lois Mackey, of Monessen; his mother-in-law, Mabel Ganassi; and two brothers-in-law, Donald Ganassi, of South Carolina, and Douglas Ganassi, of Elizabeth. Friends will be received Thursday and Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the SCHROCK-HOGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES INC., (www.schrock-hogan.com), 226 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 5, at 11 a.m. in Mingo Presbyterian Church. Family and friends attending the funeral services are asked to go directly to the church. Interment will be in Mingo Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.



Odell Windom Monessen

Odell Windom, 81, of Monessen, departed this life on Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, at her home with her family by her side. Born April 23, 1926, in Gainesville, she was a daughter of the late Herbert and Wilda Windom. She leaves to cherish her memory one daughter, the Rev. Wilda (Thomas) Farmer, of Wilmerding; three sisters, Betty Jenkins, of Chicago, Ill., Alice (Elvis) Freeman, of Passaic, N.J., and Margaret "Dottie" Scott-Arnett, of Brownsville; six grandchildren, Norronda (Edgar) Jones, Jacquelyn Windom-Gunnell, with whom she lived, both of Monessen, Aaron (LaToya) Windom, of Houston, Texas, Jacqueline Williams, of New Orleans, La., Thomas Farmer Jr., of Los Angeles, Calif., and Pamela Farmer, of Pittsburgh; seven great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren; three nephews, whom she helped raised, William Scott and Nathaniel and Charles Mosley; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by six brothers, Wilmer, Herbert, James, John, Floyd and Edward Windom; three sisters, Marie Gates, Earstie Keith and Bernice Windom; and one granddaughter, LaTanya Marie Windom. Family and friends will be received Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the BEVERLY C. DRAPER FUNERAL HOME INC., 608 Sixth St., Monessen (724-684-6242). Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 4, at 11 a.m. in Union-Fellowship Baptist Church, 916 Knox Ave., Monessen, with the Rev. Ricardo V. Hall officiating. Interment will take place in Belle Vernon Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

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online at
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TODAY IN HISTORY



Today is Thursday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2008. There are 363 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

Fifty years ago, on Jan. 3, 1958, the first six members of the newly formed U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held their first meeting at the White House after they were sworn in by President Eisenhower.

On this date:

■ In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.

■ In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.

■ In 1833, Britain seized control of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic. (Almost 150 years later, Argentina seized the islands from the British, but Britain took them back after a 74-day war.)

■ In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns.

■ In 1938, the March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was organized.

■ In 1947, congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York got to see some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress.

■ In 1959, President Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union as the 49th state.

■ In 1961, the United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.

■ In 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

■ In 1993, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a historic nuclear missile-reduction treaty in Moscow.

■ **Ten years ago:** Funeral services were held in Centerville, Mass., for Michael Kennedy, the son of Robert and Ethel Kennedy who was killed New Year's Eve in a skiing accident in Aspen, Colo.

■ **Five years ago:** Taking a brief timeout from his two-week vacation, President Bush visited Fort Hood in Texas, where he rallied Army troops as the nation faced the prospect of war with Iraq. David West-erfield, the man who had kidnapped and murdered 7-year-old neighbor Danielle van Dam, was sentenced to death by a judge in San Diego.

■ **One year ago:** Gerald R. Ford was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum in Grand Rapids, Mich., during a ceremony watched by thousands. Four Americans and an Austrian abducted in southern Iraq spoke briefly and appeared uninjured in a video delivered to The Associated Press.

■ **Today's Birthdays:** Record producer Sir George Martin is 82. Actor Robert Loggia is 78. Actor Dabney Coleman is 76. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 72. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Hull is 69. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 65. Musician Stephen Stills is 63. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 62. Actress Victoria Principal is 58. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 52. Actress Shannon Sturges is 40. Jazz musician James Carter is 39. Actor Jason Marsden is 33. Actress Danica McKellar is 33. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 32. Singer Kimberley Locke ("American Idol") is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lloyd is 22.



Associated Press

Iraqi Shites listen to Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, head of the Iraqi parliament's largest bloc, today in Najaf, Iraq. Al-Hakim acknowledged the contribution of U.S.-backed Sunni Arab groups to the decline in violence across Iraq and called for their use in the continuing fight against al-Qaida.

Top Shiite politician critical of government

Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim stopped short of saying whether Sunni role should be permanent.

By HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — A top Shiite politician today acknowledged the contribution of U.S.-backed Sunni Arab groups to the decline in violence across Iraq and called for their use in the continuing fight against al-Qaida.

Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim's praise for the role of the groups, many of which had fought U.S. and Iraq's Shiite-dominated security forces before switching sides last year, runs contrary to the hardline position recently taken by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government.

The government last month said it will disband the groups, known as Awakening Councils in some regions and Concerned Local Citizens in others, after restive areas are calmed. It said it did not want them to be a separate military force and would not allow them to have any infrastructure, such as offices.

The Sunni militias, more than 70,000-strong, have been credited by American commanders as being instrumental in what they say is a nearly 60 percent reduction in violence in the last six months. It also was affected by the dispatch of additional U.S. troops and a

six-month cease-fire declared in August by anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his militia.

But al-Maliki's government has been deeply uneasy about the potential for the Sunni fighters — now better organized and armed — to switch sides again, posing a threat to stability and the Shiite domination that followed the ouster of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led regime.

However, al-Hakim, head of parliament's largest bloc and the country's most powerful political party, was conciliatory in his comments today, although his praise for the Sunni groups was moderate and he did not say whether their future role should be permanent.

Noting the decline in violence, he said the credit should go to the role played by the groups, adding: "We still believe in the necessity of continuing with this strategy."

Al-Hakim, who was diagnosed with cancer last year but has been in relatively good health after chemotherapy treatment in Iran, spoke to supporters in the holy city of Najaf.

He has long called for the use of "popular" forces in the fight against insurgents, but these calls were generally understood to mean giving Shiite militias a free rein in taking on the Sunni insurgents, many of whom have now

switched allegiances and are now fighting alongside U.S. and Iraqi forces.

He said today that the recent security successes were "in some part" based on the strategy he has long advocated. Still, his call for the continued use of the Sunni groups appeared designed to limit the damage caused by the government's hardline stance on the morale of the Sunni fighters or its likely impact on their loyalty to the anti-al-Qaida in Iraq cause.

Some of the Sunni groups have said they wanted a security role beyond their localities, while others have made no secret of their political ambitions.

Al-Hakim's take on the Sunni groups was not the only hint of his displeasure with the performance of the 19-month-old al-Maliki government, of which al-Hakim's Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, or SIIC, is a major partner.

He subtly admonished the government for not doing enough to improve the lot of Iraq's poor or fight widespread corruption in government. He also called on the government to speed up the reconstruction of a major Shiite shrine bombed in 2006 and 2007.

The government has repeatedly said it was determined to rebuild the shrine, but there has been little progress since the second bombing brought down the shrine's two minarets in June.

Veteran prosecutor tapped to oversee CIA tapes investigation

John Durham, of Connecticut, appointed to head up the probe.

By MATT APUZZO

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — For the high-profile, politically charged investigation into the destruction of CIA interrogation videos, the Justice Department is turning to a low-profile, politically independent prosecutor.

Attorney General Michael Mukasey appointed John Durham, a veteran federal prosecutor in Connecticut, to oversee a full criminal investigation that could further challenge the Bush administration's handling of terrorism suspects.

The CIA acknowledged last month that in 2005 it destroyed videos of officers using tough interrogation methods on two al-Qaida suspects.

The revelation touched off a congressional inquiry and a preliminary investigation by the Justice Department into whether the CIA violated any laws or obstructed congressional inquiries such as the one led by the Sept. 11 Commission.

Durham, who has served with the Justice Department for 25 years, has a reputation as one of the nation's most relentless

prosecutors. He was appointed to investigate the FBI's use of mob informants in Boston, a probe that sent former FBI agent John Connolly to prison.

"Nobody in this country is above the law, an FBI agent or otherwise," Durham said in 2002 after Connolly's conviction, a rare public statement for a prosecutor who usually avoids reporters.

Prosecutors from the Eastern District of Virginia, which includes the CIA's headquarters in Langley, Va., had removed themselves from the case. CIA Inspector General John L. Helgeson, who worked with the Justice Department on the preliminary inquiry, also removed himself.

"The CIA will of course cooperate fully with this investigation as it has with the others into this matter," agency spokesman Mark Mansfield said.

Durham will serve as acting U.S. attorney on the case, a designation the Justice Department frequently makes when top prosecutors take themselves off a case. He will not serve as a special prosecutor like Patrick Fitzgerald, who acted autonomously while investigating the 2003 leak of a CIA operative's identity. "The Justice Department

went out and got somebody with complete independence and integrity," said former Connecticut U.S. Attorney Stanley Twardy, who worked with Durham. "No politics whatsoever. It's going to be completely by the book and he's going to let the chips fall where they may."

Durham gained national prominence following the 1989 murder of Mafia underboss William Grasso, which led to one of the biggest mob takedowns in U.S. history. He then turned to Connecticut street gangs, winning dozens of convictions and putting some gang leaders in jail for life. Former Attorney General Janet Reno hand-picked Durham to lead the investigation into the FBI's use of mob informants in Boston.

Durham, a Republican, has shown no tolerance for corruption in either party. He supervised the corruption investigation that sent former Republican Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland and several members of his administration to prison.

"He'll suck the political air right out of the investigation and just go after the facts," said Mike Clark, a retired FBI agent who investigated Rowland. "He's going to do it his way and just keep digging."

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Riot police fire tear gas in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons today to beat back crowds of rock-throwing opposition protesters who took to the streets for a rally many feared would deepen the crisis wracking what had been one of Africa's most stable countries.

Amid the mayhem, a top official with Raila Odinga's main opposition party said the rally to protest Kenya's disputed presidential election had been canceled and he called on supporters to go home.

"We are a peaceful people who do not want violence," William Ruto, a top party official told hundreds of supporters through a megaphone on a Nairobi street. "That is why we are peacefully dispersing now."

Calls for Musharraf to step down intensify

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's U.S.-allied president must resign before next month's elections or the country could risk slipping into civil war, opposition leaders and a leading independent research institute said today.

The calls came after the government pushed back polls to Feb. 18 from the planned Jan. 8 date due to unrest following the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Bhutto's death in a suicide bomb and gun attack plunged already volatile Pakistan deeper into crisis and stoked fears of political meltdown as the nation

struggled to contain an explosion of Islamic militant violence.

The government — which had initially ruled out the need for foreign involvement in the assassination probe — has been criticized over its security arrangements for Bhutto, who had claimed elements in the ruling party were trying to kill her. The party vehemently denies such a plot.

Bhutto supporters have insisted that a U.N. probe would be the only way to reveal the truth behind her Dec. 27 slaying.

2nd prison escape prompts questions

LAUREL, Md. (AP) — A brazen escape by a prisoner being treated at a hospital — the second such escape in as many months — has prompted an investigation about how inmates are handled outside prison walls.

Kelvin Poke, 45, overpowered five guards at Laurel Regional Hospital and fired several shots Wednesday before stealing two getaway cars. He was cornered hours later in a cemetery by police and killed in a shootout, authorities said.

Mark Vernarelli, a spokesman for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, said the agency's internal investigative unit would review whether guards followed proper procedures.

In November, a prisoner escaped from the same hospital after taking a state trooper's gun and firing shots. He was captured hours later following an intense search.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

Two players hit 'Cash 5' jackpot

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Two players matched all five winning numbers drawn in Wednesday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" game and will each receive \$100,000.

Lottery officials said 126 players matched four numbers and won \$344.50 each; 4,233 players matched three numbers and won \$11 each; and 48,160 players matched two numbers and won \$1 each.

LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2

DAY PICK 3:	2-4-3
NIGHT PICK 3:	7-5-1
DAY PICK 4:	8-2-6-1
NIGHT PICK 4:	5-2-8-3
TREASURE HUNT:	8-14-19-21-22
CASH 5:	1-9-20-26-38
POWERBALL:	2-11-31-34-48
POWERBALL:	5 POWERPLAY: 4

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2

DAY PICK 3:	4-6-8
NIGHT PICK 3:	2-5-1
DAY PICK 4:	5-4-5-2
NIGHT PICK 4:	7-0-8-9
ROLLING CASH 5:	3-11-17-20-31
CLASSIC LOTTO:	2-25-30-34-37-41

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2

DAILY 3:	8-3-3
DAILY 4:	6-3-9-6
HOT LOTTO:	2-19-22-26-32 HB: 16

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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Valley OPINION

Giving moderate Islam a voice

"I wish there were more Islamic moderates," Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a former Muslim and author of the emotionally gripping and horrifying book "Infidel," wrote in a New York Times piece in early December. Answering that call is one Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, who is doing his best to make the world safe for Islamic moderates — or at least encourage the ones in the United States to speak out.

Jasser, a former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy and a full-time physician, founded a Phoenix, Ariz.-based group of professionals who are Muslim, the American Islamic Forum for Democracy.

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, President George W. Bush said, "The 19 suicide terrorists hijacked a great religion." But as Jasser will tell you, there are Muslims right here in the United States preaching what could lead to the same drive for violence that killed almost 3,000 Americans.

As Jasser recently told me, "While I have never heard violence preached in any mosque I attended, I did hear conspiracy theories, anti-Semitism, anti-Americanism and radical



Kathryn LOPEZ

politics, which often predominated instead of a focus on spirituality, humility and moral courage. This led to a regular struggle with many, but not all, of the clerical leadership in many of the Muslim communities in which I have lived and participated."

The Islam he loves — essentially, "maintaining a central, personal spiritual relationship with God" in his life — can thrive in a pluralistic country, he argues, which is sometimes contrary to what some American Muslims may hear in their local mosques. "I tried to intellectually counter them from within the community, but did so to no avail. For who was I to question clerical authority and interpretations?"

The 2002 attacks changed things for Jasser. "After 9/11, it was immediately clear to me ... that the Islamist agenda was the root cause of terrorism and Muslim radicalism. It was obvious to me that the only

treatment of this cancer within was for devout Muslims who love America and love the spirituality of Islam to reclaim the mantle of faith from the Islamists."

He is grateful to Hirsi Ali, who is no longer Muslim, for sharing her story and giving an opening to Muslims like himself — people who want to fight back against militant Islam and the violent interpretations of a faith he loves.

But there are not enough Jassers. He laments, "What strikes me even more than the existence of the 'former Muslim voices' is the relative paucity of audible, devotional, anti-Islamist Muslim voices. For those of us immersed in the Muslim community for most of our life, we know that they exist, and we know they may even be a majority."

But inside the mosque, that's not the case, in his experience: "The anti-Islamist Muslim is a minority in the mosque scene or the political-activist Muslim-community scene. But studies have shown that less than a majority of Muslims attend mosque regularly, and even a far smaller percentage are involved in political Islamist organizations."

He surmises that many of his brothers in faith are staying away from their local mosques for fear of or in protest against what they are teaching there.

In the news over the past year, we've seen militant Islamic groups in the United States on trial, we've seen calls for the death of a British schoolteacher in Sudan over a teddy bear named Muhammad, we've seen a woman in the Islamic state of Saudi Arabia sentenced to lashes and jail time after being raped. (She was pardoned — an exception for the kingdom rather than the rule.) These incidents are all outrageous — and too few Muslims in America voiced their outrage loudly. This frustrates Jasser. He lives in a country he loves and practices a religion he loves, even as practitioners of his religion want to do harm to his beloved United States. But in a time of war, Jasser is doing his part. The rest of us need to listen and encourage the Jassers of our country. We owe it to ourselves as much as to him.

Kathryn Lopez is the editor of National Review Online (www.nationalreview.com). She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

OUR OPINION

Taxpayers hurt by reckless policy

CONGRESS HAS AGAIN proved it cannot leave bad enough alone, this time placing nearly 4 million people in the middle of petty arguments over a questionable tax.

Because Congress failed to protect people from a 1969 law that targeted 155 very wealthy families, 3 million to 4 million traditional early filers will have to wait until February to submit tax forms.

That might not seem to be much of a wait to the Capitol Hill bunch — leisurely porking its way through life on the public's nickel — but the affected taxpayers certainly are yearning for the couple grand their elected officials essentially held hostage.

To begin with, the government should never covet excess federally withheld employee earnings for even a single day longer than absolutely necessary. That is especially true as the economy tightens.

And second, the alternative minimum tax law should be rewritten, if not abolished. Congress passed the legislation in 1969 to ensure the wealthiest families, through deductions, could not totally avoid federal taxes. Because the law does not allow for inflation adjustments, it applies each year to a growing number of middle-income families.

To keep the latter from being affected, Congress must, each year, approve a fix to protect the middle-income group.

The "fix" came late last year, which means the Internal Revenue Service was not able to update its computers to properly handle the proper tax forms.

It is clear the correct fix should be of a permanent nature. The law should be amended to include inflation adjustments — a simple solution, huh?

If that is not acceptable Congress, it should just go ahead and REALLY micromanage the taxation system. It should rewrite the law to list, by name, the wealthy families from which it hopes to extract an annual pound of flesh. Then, each year it could adjust the law to add or subtract names from the hit list. That sounds ridiculous, but, hey, it's Congress, and that makes the plan just perfect.

ANOTHER VIEW

The Daytona (Fla.) Beach News-Journal, on Congress, consumer credit and high interest rates:

It's the time of year when many Americans confront irresponsible spending — but now, the days of reckoning are taking on an air of desperation in many households, as families face bills they can't pay.

Nobody forced these families to spend beyond their means. And many debtors acknowledge they are to blame for much of their problem. But credit-card companies also must take responsibility for extending credit without a firm indication that debts could be repaid — and most deserve blame for predatory practices that make the plight of many families worse than it would otherwise be.

These companies' profits still are running high. In fact, many card companies have adopted policies that make it likely that the default rate will continue to spike, and purposefully target high-risk debtors, loading on fees that assure the accounts will be profitable even if the borrowers default. ...

But Congress and federal regulators also should examine the costs of high default rates on a wider scale, especially when coupled with the still-developing mortgage-foreclosure boom.

...Federal regulators should face reality: Too much of the U.S. economy is based on high-risk debt, much of which probably should never have been extended in the first place. ...

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.) While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.



Infrastructure needs help

To the Editor:

Pennsylvania's aging and overburdened infrastructure needs immediate attention.

Much ado has been made about proposals to lease the Pennsylvania Turnpike and plans to toll Interstate 80. We debate the construction of power transmission lines and bemoan the cost of new sewer and water systems.

Reasonable people may disagree upon the specifics of infrastructure projects for rational and valid reasons, but one point is clear and unequivocal: immediate action is needed.

The tragic bridge collapse in Minnesota brought the nation's attention to the plight of transportation infrastructure. Hopefully we are not in imminent danger of catastrophic failure in Pennsylvania, but we know systemic problems are mounting.

PennDOT estimates our annual shortfall in road and bridge maintenance is \$900 million — nearly \$1 billion per year less than we should be spending just to keep what we have in good working order. And commuters on Pennsylvania's 45,000 miles of state-maintained roads know that many of our thorough-

fares are overburdened.

Mass transit is an economic lifeline for hundreds of thousands of workers in urban areas and provides some relief to road congestion. Yet, we have no dedicated source of state funding for our mass transit systems. Diverting funds from other transportation infrastructure is not a wise long-term solution.

Pennsylvania has 5,145 miles of railroad operated, and 69 freight railroads, more railroads than any other state — carrying Pennsylvania commodities including coal, steel, petroleum, chemicals and food products. Some of the lines that pass through Pennsylvania are among the highest volume lines in America.

Freight also runs along lines designed to be primarily for passenger service. The railroads themselves pay for most of the \$135 million spent annually to maintain the system. Our railroads are keys to economic growth and competitiveness, but we need safer grade crossings, bridges able to handle heavier cars, connections to intermodal facilities and additional

infrastructure to make the most of this competitive advantage.

Many of Pennsylvania's public water and sewer systems are as overburdened and undermaintained as our roads — threatening public health and the environment. Rural communities struggle to comply with environmental orders, urban sewer systems are flooded by infiltration, and streams are threatened.

Economic development in core industries like food processing is limited by the inability to provide process water.

Air travelers at our major airports well understand the congestion and delays. Many mid-state air travelers have found themselves unable to find flights as service has been curtailed or reduced.

It is easy to say "no" — but it is essential that we find public policy solutions to infrastructure to which we can all say "yes." Telling our highways, selling our assets, or raising the gasoline tax — none of these are necessarily attractive options. These are choices among unpopu-

lar, and in ways, painful options. But doing "nothing" is not an option at all. Let's credit policymakers who have shown the courage to do something. This summer's Act 44 was not a perfect solution to transportation issues, but it was a start.

There is important legislation under consideration for Public Private Partnerships (P3s) — toll roads to fund construction and expansion. Legislation has been introduced to improve our sewer and water systems. PennDOT is exploring options for better rail and air service in the Commonwealth.

The business community of Pennsylvania is prepared to join our elected policymakers as partners in the search for solutions. We know the work will not be easy and the answers may not be popular. But if it were easy, it would have been done.

These efforts are critical to creating a more competitive Pennsylvania; a more prosperous Pennsylvania; a better Pennsylvania for all of us.

David W. Patti
President & CEO
Pennsylvania Business Council

Late night shows spring back to life

Candidates, beards highlight return to the airwaves.

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A Republican, a Democrat and two bearded hosts walked into a TV studio last night ...

... and so did Robin Williams, Bob Saget, Emeril Lagasse, Chingy, Helio Castroneves and three clean-shaven funny men as the late-night TV universe tried to right itself two months into the writers strike.

The results Wednesday night were uneven. David Letterman had reached an agreement to allow writers to work on his show; Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien and ABC's Jimmy Kimmel returned without theirs. A fully bearded Letterman walked onstage amid dancing girls holding picket signs supporting the striking writers; Kimmel called picketers "ridiculous."

Leno delivered a monologue that included jokes he said he had crafted beforehand. Whether that violated rules of the striking Writers Guild of America — to which Leno belongs — was not immediately clear.

"We are not using outside guys," Leno said in the monologue. "We are following the guild thing ... we can write for ourselves."

The union said Wednesday it was withholding comment until it spoke to Leno about his show, which, like the other returning programs, was laden with references to the

strike.

The walkout, Leno joked, "has already cost the town over half a billion dollars. Five hundred million dollars! Or as Paul McCartney calls that, 'A divorce!'"

Guests on the shows included two presidential candidates — with the Democrat, Hillary Clinton, making a cameo appearance on Letterman's union-sanctioned "Late Show" while Republican Mike Huckabee ventured across picket lines to play bass guitar and trade jokes with Leno on "Tonight."

Letterman had the biggest celebrity guest, Robin Williams, who teased Letterman unmercifully about his beard, alternately comparing him to Gen. Robert E. Lee, a rabbi and an Iraqi mullah. Meanwhile, over on NBC, Leno segued from Huckabee to chef Emeril Lagasse and then the rapper Chingy. O'Brien welcomed Saget to pitch a new NBC show. Race car driver and "Dancing With the Stars" champ Castroneves came to Kimmel.

Craig Ferguson appeared with no guests but a full complement of writers on "The Late Late Show" on CBS; his show is produced by Letterman's company, Worldwide Pants, which struck a separate deal with the guild.

"I just want to send a message to the D-list celebrities of Hollywood," Ferguson said. "You're still welcome here."

Creative stretch marks were immediately evident on the shows without writers. O'Brien, sporting facial growth to match his red hair, showed off Christmas cards, danced on his table as his band played the Clash's "The Magnificent Seven" and tried to see how long he could spin his wedding ring

"I just want to send a message to the D-list celebrities of Hollywood. You're still welcome here."

Craig Ferguson

on his desk. Leno took questions from his audience.

There was also plenty of free on-air promotion for the guild's cause.

"The writers are correct, by the way. I'm a writer ... I'm on the side of the writers," Leno said.

"I want to make this clear. I support their cause," O'Brien said. "These are very talented, very creative people who work extremely hard. I believe what they're asking for is fair."

Letterman brought writers on to recite a top 10 list of their strike demands. They included "complimentary tote bag with next insulting contract offer" and "Hazard pay for breaking up fights on 'The View.'"

"You're watching the only show on the air that has jokes written by union writers," Letterman said. "I hear you at home thinking to yourself, 'This crap is written!'"

Not all the hosts were as charitable. During his opening, Kimmel criticized WGA members picketing

Leno and O'Brien: "I don't want to depart too much from the party line, but I think it's ridiculous. Jay Leno, he paid his staff while they were out. Conan did the same thing. I don't know. I just think at a certain point you back off a little bit."

Huckabee appeared on Leno despite his apparent confusion about the strike and a bid by picketers to keep him away, and Clinton taped a cameo introducing

Letterman.

"Dave has been off the air for eight long weeks because of the writers strike," she said. "Tonight, he's back. Oh, well, all good things come to an end."

Huckabee said he supports the writers and did not think he would be crossing a picket line, because he believed the writers had made an agreement to allow late-night shows on the air. But that's not the case with

Leno.

"Huckabee is a scab," read one picket sign outside Leno's Burbank, Calif., studio.

The writers guild urged Huckabee not to cross their picket line after he flew out to California.



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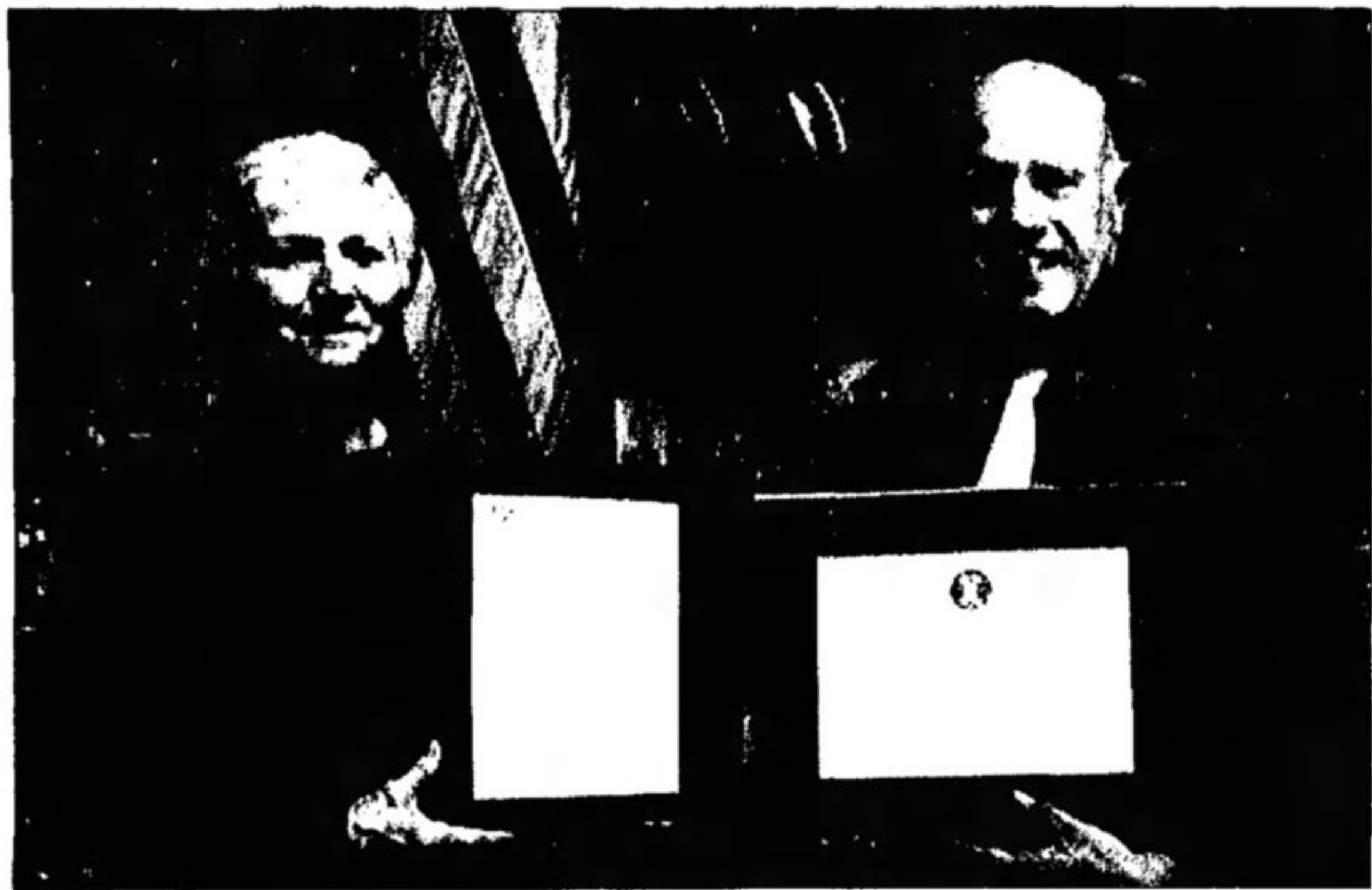
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NEWS



Charleroi Mayor Frank Pattera presents to Charleroi Area Historical Society President Darlene Pennline documents relative to the borough's placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The society employed Terry Necclai to seek National Register status and to obtain grants and tax credits for the property owners. A large portion of Charleroi was added to the register based on period architecture primarily developed from the late 19th century through 1920. Charleroi is noteworthy because it is one of the last "Boomtowns" of the 1800s. It is listed with the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service.

LIBRARY MEMORIALS

Monongahela Area Library

The Monongahela Area Library has added the following:

Memorials

Robert G. 'Pap Pap' Stash

"Let it Snow: Toot and Puddle" by Holly Hobbie, presented by grandchildren, Maria, Dominic, and Angelina Lengwin.

Eleanor Wible

"The New Tea Companion" by Jane Pettgrew, presented by Jim and Frances McCune.

Memorial gifts

A gift in memory of Louis Smith by Mary and Renee Batten.

A gift in memory of Buddy Neidermeyer by Joan, Bill and Julia.

A gift in memory of Thelma Proctor by Mon Area Chapter 2563 Am Assoc. of Retired Persons.

A gift in memory of Fred Higgins by Mon Area Chapter 2563 Am Assoc. of Retired Persons.

When submitting announcements ...

When submitting information for anniversaries, weddings and engagements, please list the first and last names of all people. We will not run items that list people, for example, as Mr. and Mrs. John Doe.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT

Charles Christner, West Newton

The following cases were heard Monday at Magisterial District Judge Charles Christner's office in West Newton:

■ Kevin Richard Kimberly, 42, of 239 Albee Drive, Rostraver Estates, Belle Vernon, waived the right to a preliminary hearing. Kimberly was charged with driving under the influence, driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked (DUI-related), accidents involving damage to attended vehicle or property and careless driving after an incident Oct. 28 at GetGo on Route 51 in Rostraver Township.

■ A warrant was issued against Jessica Jolene Molinero Kerner, 24, of 3490 Dixonville Road,

Marion Center for failing to attend a preliminary hearing. Kerner was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession or distribution of a small amount of marijuana, driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked (DUI-related) and a traffic violation after an incident Sept. 26 at Roadside Restaurant on Route 51 in Rostraver Township.

■ Michael Francis Uhor Jr., 43, of 343 Krolik Ave., Belle Vernon, waived the right to a preliminary hearing. Uhor was charged with accidents involving damage to attended vehicle or property, driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked (DUI-related) and careless

driving after an incident Oct. 24 at Suchko Landscape Supply on Finley Road in Rostraver Township.

■ Daniel Lee McCullough, 29, of 170 Leisure Lane, Bedford, waived the right to a preliminary hearing. McCullough was charged with two counts of receiving stolen property after an incident Sept. 29 at Gabriel's in Rostraver Township.

■ Timothy Nicolas Janitor, 19, of 149 Lusk Road, Bentleyville, waived the right to a preliminary hearing. Janitor was charged with two counts of receiving stolen property after an incident Sept. 28 at Gabriel's in Rostraver Township.

ODDS & ENDS

Model claims commercial makes her look lewd

NEW YORK (AP) — A model who says she has worked hard to maintain a wholesome image has filed a \$5 million lawsuit complaining that a jewelry company's video advertisement in which she writhes and moans looks pornographic.

The commercial, seen on the Internet in a clip titled "Rock Her World," shows a woman wearing blue lacy lingerie and a diamond necklace while moaning and stroking her face and neck. It ends with the Web address for the jewelry company, Szul.com.

The 37-year-old woman claims in her lawsuit that she did not "consent to or authorize the use of her likeness, picture, image or name to simulate a female having an orgasm or otherwise experiencing sexual pleasure."

"Indeed, the music to the commercial is bump-and-grind burlesque type music, which further provides the advertisement with a decidedly pornographic look, feel and sound," states the lawsuit, which was filed Monday in Manhattan's state Supreme Court.

The plaintiff, identified only as Jane Doe, says in court papers she won the role in the commercial for Szul Jewelry Inc. in November. She says the idea was that an

average guy would get a woman excited by putting a necklace on her.

Three-fourths of the filming of the commercial, shot Nov. 9 by Q2 Entertainment in a studio in Queens, involved a comedic story line, but the woman later was told to sit and feign excitement for a few seconds while the young man put the necklace on her, the lawsuit says.

After that scene, the court papers say, the director told her to fake excitement while lying down, without smiling.

"He asked her to keep repeating the action until he thought he got the most authentic looking film piece," they say.

The plaintiff, who is a married graduate student in elementary education, "has worked hard to project a wholesome image and has been extremely careful to avoid doing any work in the industry that would cheapen or tarnish her reputation," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit names Szul Jewelry, Q2 Entertainment and Q2 principal Mitchell Goldman as defendants.

The woman is asking for \$2.5 million in compensatory damages and \$2.5 million in punitive damages.

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**Must-see TV
for Steelers**

Pittsburgh players can't get away from the tape of their loss to Jacksonville. **2B**

Valley SPORTS

**Panthers rip
Lafayette**

Pitt trailed at halftime Wednesday, but bounced back for a 96-75 victory. **2B**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008

Leps KO'ed

Jacob Dudzinski's 30 points weren't enough for Belle Vernon Area in Wednesday's loss to Keystone Oaks. **2B**

Sports Trivia

Which three Pitt gridders went on to become the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year? **2B**

Last night's scores

Atlanta 5, Carolina 4, OT
New Jersey 3, Florida 2
Detroit 4, Dallas 1
Edmonton 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Phoenix 5, Colorado 2
Calgary 4, N.Y. Rangers 3

Brian **HERMAN**

Moorer's next fight in India

Cleaning out the notebook:

■ Monessen's Michael Moorer boxed in some strange places in 2007.

His last two bouts were in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Panama City, Panama, where he won a split decision and scored a first-round TKO victory.

Evidently he's picking up in 2008 where he left off.

Moorer's next bout will be Feb. 8 in Dubai, India, against a boxer still to be named.

The 40-year-old Moorer has won five straight fights after losing a unanimous decision in 2004 to Eliseo Castillo in Florida, where he now resides and trains.

Since that fight, Castillo went 2-2, getting knocked out by Wladimir Klitschko in Germany in 2004 and by Johnathan Banks in New York in his last fight 17 months ago.

■ Lloyd Price, Ringgold's first-year athletic director, was among more than 1,700 attending the 38th annual National High School Athletic Directors Show last month at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn.

The event is held exclusively for high school athletic directors and administrators.

In case you're wondering, Price did see entertainer Dolly Parton, who sang "Nine to Five" and cracked some jokes at one of the luncheons.

■ Don't be surprised if Ringgold opens its next two football seasons with Peters Township.

The two were former Big Seven Conference rivals until the Rams were moved into the Keystone Conference two

Lady Hounds shock Serra



Cindy Shogan Keeley/For The Valley Independent

Monessen coach Major Corley talks to his players during a timeout in the Lady Greyhounds' crucial A Section 3 43-41 win at Serra Wednesday.

Missed layup sparks fourth-quarter rally in 43-41 victory.

By **JEFF OLIVER**

Staff Writer

joliver@tribweb.com

McKEESPORT — Early in the fourth quarter Wednesday, Serra Catholic held a comfortable 35-26 lead over Monessen and had the momentum.

The Lady Greyhounds turned the ball over and Serra's Jade Stewart went in for an uncontested layup that would have put the lead into double digits.

However, Stewart's shot rolled out of the rim and after that, so did the hosts' chance for a huge Class A Section 3 win.

That's because Monessen went on an 11-1 run at that point and took a 37-36 lead.

In the end, it was a driving, twisting layup by Kelly Mornak with 1.5 seconds to play that provided the winning points in a 43-41 victory.

The victory runs Monessen's unbeaten slate to 13-0, and more importantly, gives the Lady Greyhounds (4-0 in the section) a big cushion over their nearest competitors, Clairton and Serra (1-1, 5-3). "We beat Serra and Clairton on the road

so we get both of them at home in the second half," said Monessen coach Major Corley. "I think that puts us in the driver's seat in the section."

Last night's contest started with 1:18 left in the second quarter and Monessen leading 5-0. That was the situation Dec. 7 when the lights went out the first time the two teams met.

But the host Lady Eagles quickly got back into the game as Stewart hit a three-pointer from 23 feet at the buzzer to close the gap to 6-5 after one quarter.

In the second quarter, Serra's patient offense gave Monessen trouble and the hosts moved out to an 18-14 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, after Monessen tied the game at 18-18, the hosts went on a 10-4 spree to take a 28-22 advantage.

Serra's lead was 34-26 going into the fourth quarter and when Stewart hit one of two free throws, the margin was nine points (35-26).

Then came the steal and Stewart's missed layup.

After that, the Lady Greyhounds roared back, fueled by Christina Chukwuedo and Jessica Diggs, who scored four points each in a 1:14 stretch as the visitors outscored Serra 11-1.

(See **MONESSEN**, Page 2B)

'Great night to be a Mountaineer'

WVU rallies behind new coach in Fiesta Bowl blowout of Oklahoma.

By **ANDREW BAGNATO**

AP College Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Bill Stewart didn't have to lobby to become West Virginia's next coach.

Led by elusive quarterback Pat White, the 11th-ranked Mountaineers gave him a resounding endorsement in a 48-28 Fiesta Bowl victory over No. 3 Oklahoma on Wednesday night. Stewart served as interim replacement for Rich Rodriguez, who bolted for Michigan last month.

"They gave me my marching orders to get this team ready, and that's what we did," Stewart said.

White, who ran for 150 yards and threw for 176 and two

our program."

"I never had a Gatorade bath," said Stewart, a native West Virginian who has been an assistant for most of his career. "It was special."

The Mountaineers didn't need Rodriguez. They had White, a relentless defense and a rushing attack that raced for 349 yards, most allowed by Oklahoma in a bowl game.

Since arriving in the desert last week, the Mountaineers (11-2) said they had bonded behind Stewart. And they vowed to rebound from a 13-9 loss to Pitt that knocked them out of the Bowl Championship Series title game.

The Mountaineers were right on both counts, turning in an emotional effort and overcoming the loss of star tailback Steve Slaton to a first-quarter leg injury. Noel Devine replaced Slaton and ran for 108 yards and two



Steelers can't hide from loss to Jaguars

Tapes of game are on every channel in team's practice complex.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

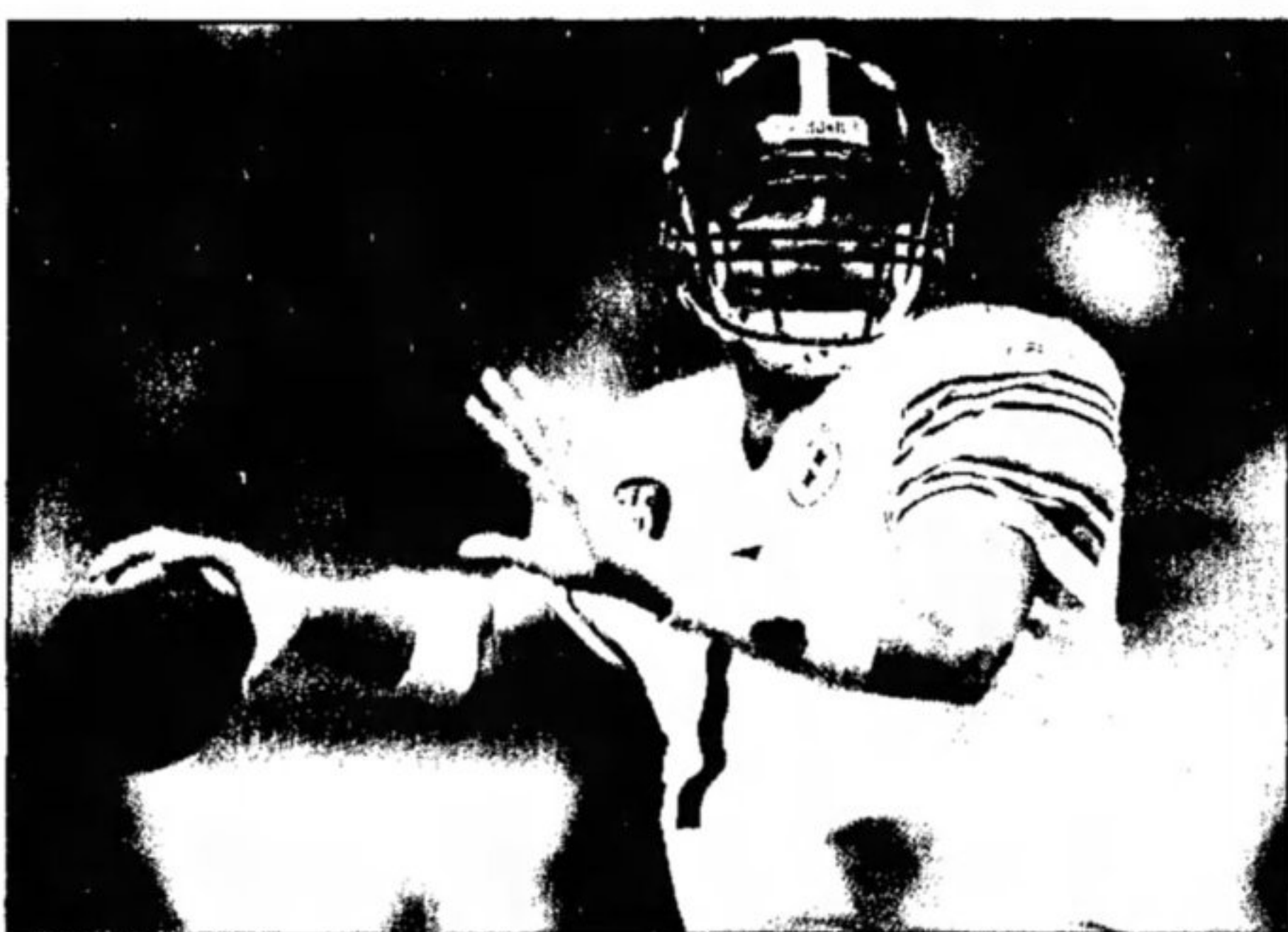
PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger, the Pittsburgh Steelers' MVP in the eyes of almost everyone except his teammates, couldn't be more irritated.

Everywhere he goes in the Steelers' practice complex, he can't get away from the Jaguars — much like he couldn't while being sacked five times during Jacksonville's 29-22 victory in Pittsburgh three weeks ago.

The tape of the Steelers' only home loss this season is being looped constantly in their meeting rooms, the players' lounge, the team offices. It's all Jaguars all the time as the Steelers prepare for Saturday night's rematch in the AFC playoffs, and Roethlisberger has seen enough.

Flipping the channel doesn't help. No matter what TV he turns on, Roethlisberger keeps seeing Fred Taylor's decisive TD run in the final two minutes and his 147 yards rushing. David Garrard's three TD passes. The sacks. Maurice Jones-Drew's 69 yards rushing.

"It's annoying, honestly," Roethlisberger said Wednesday. "You get tired. You want to watch SportsCenter or see something else, CNN, I don't know, some-



Ben Roethlisberger

thing. The Cooking Channel, something."

Roethlisberger suspects this is coach Mike Tomlin's brainwashing plot to get the Steelers so upset, so riled up, they take out their frustrations on the Jaguars.

However, the Steelers, losers of three of four as they limp into the playoffs with a patchwork lineup, know it will take more than hostility and a hijacked TV signal to beat Jacksonville.

They almost certainly need a big game from Big Ben, whose fourth NFL season has been easily his best, even if linebacker James Harrison unexpectedly beat him

out for the players' MVP award.

Despite being sacked 46 times, second most in team history, Roethlisberger has a 65.3 completion percentage while throwing a team-record 32 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions.

His 104.1 passer rating was second in the league only to Tom Brady's 117.2.

He would seem too young at 25 for any comeback awards, yet it was a major bounce-back year for Roethlisberger following his post-Super Bowl and motorcycle crash miseries of 2006: an 8-8 record, a league-high 23 interceptions, a 75.4 passer rating.

Roethlisberger did a lot of growing up while carrying the Steelers to a 10-6 record and their first AFC North title and home playoff game in three years.

"I think the whole year, he's been kind of handed the offense a little bit more to kind of put it more on his shoulders," Pro Bowl guard Alan Faneca said.

With 1,316-yard rusher Willie Parker out with a broken leg and the Steelers down to their No. 3 left tackle in Trai Essex, Roethlisberger's throwing and his proven ability to win likely represent their biggest and best hope of beating Jacksonville. Roethlisberger is 44-17 as an NFL starter, 5-1 in the playoffs.

The Steelers, throwing to win in the postseason? How that's for a personality change?

"It would be nice, but we'll see what happens," Roethlisberger said. "I don't think we will just abandon the running game. I know we won't. We've thrown the ball when we need to and we've proven we can win the game when we have to throw it."

The Steelers traditionally lean on the run during the postseason, dating to the Franco Harris days of 30-plus years ago. Yet they crossed up the Colts and Broncos in the AFC playoffs two years ago by using Roethlisberger's throwing to seize early leads and the momentum, then went to the run to use up the clock and stay in the lead.

"He played phenomenal," Hines

Ward said. "He got us to the Super Bowl."

The Steelers' one discernible edge over Jacksonville, besides the home-field advantage on their awful field, appears to be Roethlisberger's playoff experience. Jacksonville QB David Garrard's postseason record is 0-0.

"The first time I went through this (in 2004), you didn't know what to expect," Roethlisberger said. "It was like, 'Oh, this is just another game.' You don't realize that it's not. It's not just another game. Every mistake is magnified. Everything you do has to be precise."

In their 75-year history, the Steelers have never lost twice to the same team in Pittsburgh in one season, much less in successive home games. Still, the Steelers are a home underdog, partly because it seems they have so little left after losing five key starters to injury and dropping four of their last seven games.

No matter. They weren't expected to beat Cincinnati on the road two Januarys ago, only weeks after the Bengals won in Pittsburgh, but they did. Nor were they supposed to win in Indianapolis, where they had lost by three touchdowns two months before, but they did.

"It's intriguing," Roethlisberger said. "It reminds me of a couple of years ago with Indianapolis. I hope it turns out that way. It's good to play a home game. That's big in the playoffs."

Pitt overcomes slow start

Panthers blow out Lafayette after trailing at halftime.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh knew there would be an adjustment period after losing two key starters in as many games, and the 13th-ranked Panthers experienced exactly that against the last non-conference team they will play this season.

At least for 20 minutes they did.

Keith Benjamin and Tyrell Biggs, playing much more with starters LeVance Fields and Mike Cook out, led a second-half comeback and the Panthers withstood Lafayette's 3-point shooting show for a 96-75 victory Wednesday night.

Benjamin scored 20 points and Biggs and Sam Young both had 19 to help the Panthers (12-1) bounce back from an 80-55 loss at No. 20 Dayton on Saturday and overcome Lafayette's 17 3-pointers, a record for a Pitt opponent.

"This is definitely what I

envisioned, being able to step up and help this team," said Benjamin, a new starter at guard who played 32 minutes, nearly twice his previous average. "I hope I can keep it up."

Gilbert Brown, Pitt's other new regular, scored 10 points and Ronald Ramon, shifted to point guard with Fields out, had 11 points and 10 assists. Ramon, playing despite a torn labrum in his shoulder, was 3-for-3 on 3-pointers as Pitt went 8-of-9 beyond the arc in the second half — a pace even the deep-shooting Leopards couldn't match.

Pitt coach Jamie Dixon was clearly pleased with how his team responded, not only to the injury losses but a 41-39 halftime deficit. He smiled frequently, praised every player by name who got into the game and said of the Panthers' Big East opener Sunday at No. 17 Villanova, "We're ready to go."

The Panthers quickly settled down once the second half started, outscoring the Leopards 57-34 the rest of the way while leaning themselves on the 3-pointer to overcome Matt

Betley's 20 points and 6-of-6 shooting on 3s. Bilal Abdullah added 14 points for Lafayette (8-5).

"We've had to become a new team that last several days ... and I think we've responded really well," Dixon said. "This is an opportunity for these guys (the new starters) to get better and it will help us down the road. What happened to us is rare, to lose two guys like that, but we're not making excuses."

Using a second reconfigured lineup in as many games because of the injuries, the Panthers looked unsettled at times on offense and defense and frequently were a step slow in defending whenever Lafayette took one of its 31 3-pointers.

"We felt LeVance Fields was the heart of their team and we knew it was a big loss for them," Lafayette coach Fran O'Hanlon said. "But when they started making shots, they got their confidence going."

The Leopards from the Patriot League hit seven of their first nine 3-point attempts and, at least briefly, flirted with dealing



Keith Benjamin

Pitt its first non-conference home loss since Bucknell's 69-66 upset three years ago to the night. That remains the Panthers' only loss in their last 78 home games against non-Big East opponents.

"We knew they were going to be shooting 30-footers and they couldn't keep it up," Benjamin said. Ramon said the Panthers didn't panic and simply "had to stay patient."

Pitt got 3-pointers from Benjamin and Ramon to quickly open a 56-49 lead, and the Leopards never made another push despite making six more 3-pointers after halftime.

BVA falls to Keystone Oaks

The Belle Vernon Area High boys' basketball team returned to Class AAA Section 5 play today at home after losing a non-section 82-75 contest at Keystone Oaks Wednesday. Jacob Dudzinski poured in a game-high 30 points for the Leps (8-4) with teammates John Naylor and Josh Pohlot both adding 16.

Corey Bellovich (29) and Jim Taylor (24) combined for 53 points for the Golden Eagles (7-6).

The Leps trailed 39-34 at halftime and 58-49 going into the fourth quarter.

Monessen tuned for Friday's Class AA Section 5 showdown at home with Washington by routing visiting Derry Area, 85-54.

The Greyhounds (10-5) coasted after jumping out to a 22-6 lead in the opening eight minutes and had the lead up to 45-23 at halftime.

Tim Tyree topped Monessen with 25 points followed by Terrance Stepoli (16), David Jeffries (11) and

Kevin Parker (10). Sophomore Ryan Hauser looked best for the Class AAA Trojans (4-7) with 17 points.

Ringgold's losing streak reached six with a 57-42 home loss to Laurel Highlands.

The Mustangs (6-5) broke open a 26-20 game by outscoring the Rams, 12-6, in the third quarter.

Kaleb Ramsey topped the Mustangs with 19 points while R.J. Brownlee (18) and Simon Bekavac (12) were high for the Rams (4-10).

Ringgold returns to Class AAA Section 4 play Friday at McGuffey.

In the showdown for first place in Class A Section 3, Serra Catholic rolled to an easy 84-45 win at Bentworth.

Anthony Epolito (23) and 6-8 Pat Grubbs (21) combined for 44 points for the Eagles (8-1, 2-0).

Joe Kennedy had 12 points for the Bearcats (8-3, 3-1), who trailed 49-26 at halftime.

SPORTS DIGEST

Allen bus chartered for game at WVU

Want to see Monessen's Charel Allen play at Morgantown, West Va., when Notre Dame's women basketball team faces West Virginia Sunday, Jan. 13?

A bus is being chartered and will leave from Monessen High at 9:30 a.m.

The cost is \$20 which covers the trip and game.

Those interested should contact Rotina Johnson at 724-684-8232 or 724-263-0157.

Charleroi man contest winner

Joe Mancinelli of Charleroi was the winner of the final Valley Independent football contest of the season.

Monessen Adult playoffs open today

The Monessen Adult Basketball League playoffs start today with D-Boys facing Model Uniforms at 7 p.m. and Frosty Mugs playing One Call Plumbing at 8 p.m. at the Civic Center.

In games Wednesday, Uniontown downed Frosty Mugs, 77-47, behind Juwan Davis' 28 points and State Property shaded One Call Plumbing, 71-70, with Brandon Jackson scoring 22 points.

High in losing causes were Frosty Mugs' Scott Usher (19) and One Call Plumbing's Phil Sherbondy (28).

Mon Valley Thunder lose to Wooster

Mon Valley Thunder's two-game winning streak in the Class A Mid-Atlantic League came to an end with a 9-5 loss at Wooster

Wednesday.

The Warriors never trailed after jumping out to a 3-0 lead in the opening 3:54 although the Thunder cut the lead to 4-3 early in the second period.

Wooster (9-10-1) sealed the win when Frank Furdero scored his second and third goals in the third period to stretch a 6-4 lead to 8-4.

Scoring goals for the Thunder (6-11-3) were Josh Laliberte, Gary Klappowski, K.C. Hahey, Gary Gagne and Jesse Farley.

The Thunder will play their fourth straight game with Wooster Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Ice Garden.

Yough girls top Charleroi, 54-44

The Yough High girls' basketball team downed visiting Charleroi, 54-44, Wednesday to avenge an earlier 55-45 loss. Allison Saccani led Yough (6-7) with 21 points and 16 rebounds.

Aly Lee looked best for Charleroi (5-7) with 10 points.

Charleroi hosts Chartiers-Houston today.

Cameron fired as Dolphins coach

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Coach Cam Cameron is gone from the Miami Dolphins after getting only one win in his first season.

Cameron was fired today by new Dolphins' boss Bill Parcells, which means the reeling franchise will have its fifth head coach in five seasons in 2008.

Trivia answer

Mike Ditka (1961), Tony Dorsett (1977) and Curtis Martin (1195).

Monessen (FROM PAGE ONE)

"We went to a full-court, man-to-man defense and abandoned our zone and it seemed to cause some turnovers," said Corley. "We came up with some steals and converted."

Monessen led 39-36 with 1:42 to play when Chukwuendo scored on a drive. At the other end, Chukwuendo came up with a big steal with 1:14 left when a controversial call turned the game around.

As Chukwuendo brought the ball up court, Monessen's Breanne Minardi was called for an intentional foul. Instead of Monessen milking the clock to protect the lead, Serra's Rachael Gould was shooting two free throws and the

Lady Eagles would get the ball.

"I never complain about officiating, but what kind of call was that away from the ball?" wondered Corley afterward.

Gould made both free throws to cut the gap to 39-38. Nine seconds later, Serra's Davida Penn made one of two free throws to knot the score at 39-39.

Mornak hit two free throws to put Monessen up 41-39 with 46 seconds left.

Serra's Vanessa McGann scored with 13 seconds left to knot the score.

That set the stage for Mornak's game-winner.

Corley called timeout with 8.4 seconds to play.

"We set up a double-stack

and I told our guards (Mornak and Chukwuendo) whoever gets the ball to go to the hoop," said Corley.

"Kelly got the ball and her girl overran her and she went to the basket and made a heck of a shot."

Chukwuendo led Monessen with 13 points and seven rebounds. Mornak had nine points, five rebounds and four steals while Diggs had nine points and seven rebounds.

Samone Stepoli had 10 rebounds for Monessen before fouling out early in the fourth quarter.

Serra was led by Stewart and Teasa Gould with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Monessen travels to Avella tonight.

WVU (FROM PAGE ONE)

Mountaineers bowl history.

Meanwhile, West Virginia's fourth-rated defense limited the potent Sooners to well below their scoring average of 43.4 points per game, third in the nation.

The Mountaineers harassed Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, sacking the nation's top-rated passer three times and intercepting him in the

end zone. Bradford completed 21 of 33 passes for 242 yards and two touchdowns.

"I just wasn't myself," Bradford said. "I wasn't going through the reads. I was forcing things."

The Sooners rallied from an 18-point deficit against Boise State last January, taking a late lead before the Broncos forced overtime, where they won on a trick

play.

The Sooners cut it to 20-15 on Chris Brown's 1-yard run midway through the third quarter.

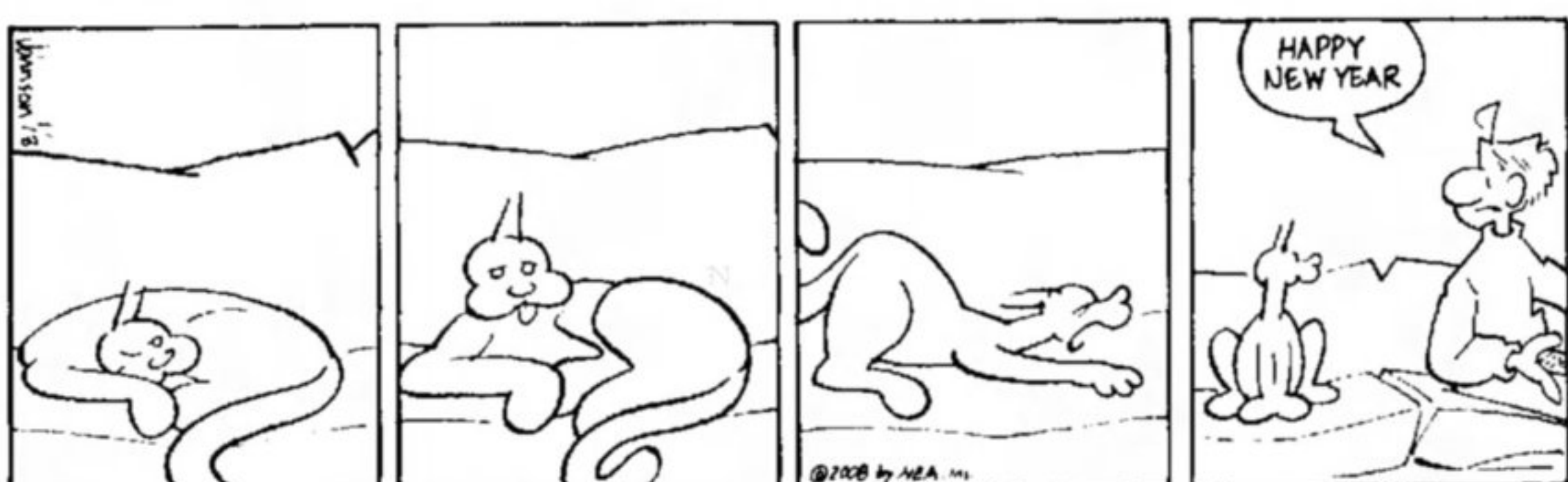
Then Stoops made two curious calls. First, he decided to go for two points. But Bradford's pass fell incomplete. Then Stoops ordered an onside kick. The ball didn't go 10 yards, and West Virginia took over on OU's 39.

in 67 years, quarterback Ryan Leaf said he will pass up his senior year to enter the NFL draft.

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite



ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



MONTY® by Jim Meddick



BEEBLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



SOUP TO NUTZ® by Rick Stromoski



BIG NATE® by Lincoln Peirce



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue



MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



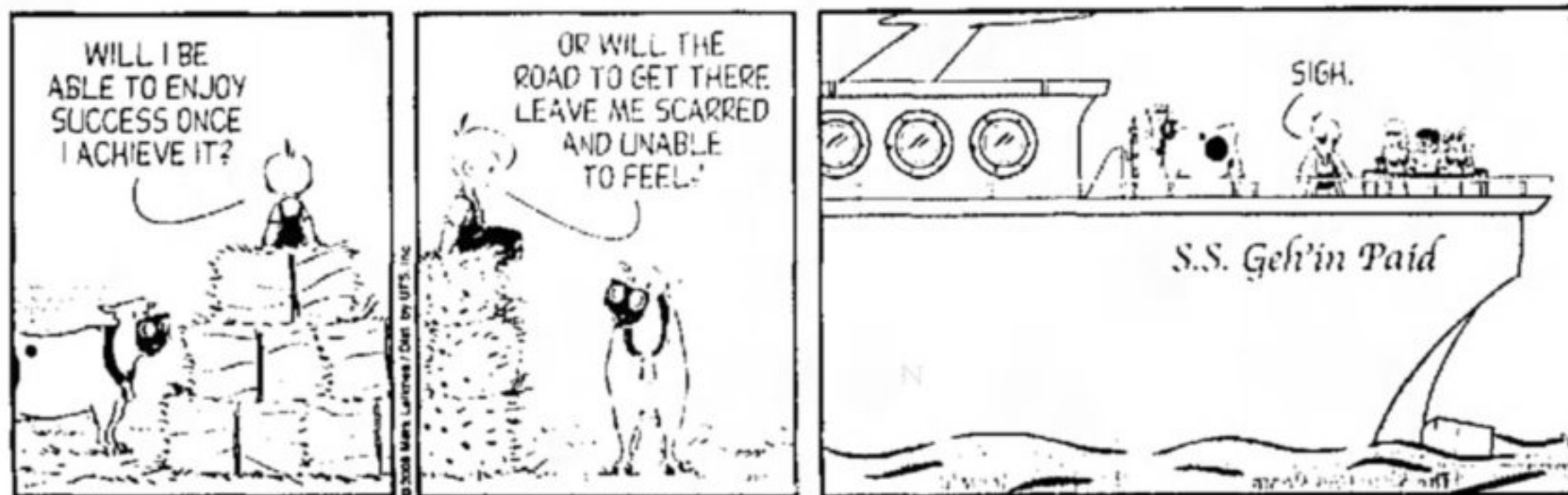
HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Brown



BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom



COW AND BOY® by Mark Leiknes



HERMAN® by Jim Unger



KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright



Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers.

ACROSS

1 Dallas NBAer

4 Crocus "bulb"

8 Drops on the grass

11 Is, for them

12 Band instrument

13 Tiberius' garb

14 Orbits

16 Enthralled

17 Promise

18 Stop standing

20 Holds up well

21 Delivery trucks

24 Cover crop

28 Have a mortgage

30 Observance

33 Go — diet

34 Main role

35 Old-time exclamation

36 Come to the rescue

37 Boulevard liners

38 Rx given, informally

39 Bear witness

41 Kind of hog

43 Bison features

47 Fasten down a tent

49 Lame excuse (hyph.)

50 Longings

53 Unreal

55 Not into the wind

56 Boxing match

57 Penn. neighbor

58 Hobby shop buy

59 Meadow browsers

60 Get the point

DOWN

1 Rain forest parrot

2 Pop up

3 Vice —

4 Soup or salad

5 Oscar's kin

6 Decay

7 Army chow

8 Follow relentlessly

9 Self-esteem

10 Move to and fro

13 Cheerful (hyph.)

15 Got frizzy

19 — had it!

22 Carol

23 Did laps

25 Victim

26 Ounce or inch

27 Whipped up

29 MS polishers

30 Valentine color

31 Frankenstein's helper

32 Baja fast food

34 Pauses

39 Juice-based drink

40 Yells

42 Church alcove

44 Frames of mind

45 Blender button

46 Pizazz

48 Jeer at

49 Mystery board game

50 Chatter away

51 Yale athlete

52 Fish-catching rig

54 First gear



10/11/97

Andrew Stockey Kelly Frey Demetrius Ivory Melanie Taylor

***Preparing
You For
The Day
Ahead***

ACTION NEWS 
THIS MORNING 5 - 7AM

Frugal Living

Learn something from your flops

After advocating frugality for years and sharing success stories, it's only fair that I mention that frugal strategies don't work equally well for everyone.

Whether it's a spouse who's not on board, time restraints, good intentions gone bad or an unwillingness to pinch a penny until it screams, you're bound to take the occasional misstep.

Frugality isn't an all-or-nothing lifestyle. Pick and choose what works for you, experiment and try new things, or jump in with both feet and see where the journey takes you. The important part is acknowledging that, in this consumer-driven and wasteful society, we have options.

Readers often share their frugal failures. I've culled the most popular flops because they're entertaining, and they can guide others in what does and doesn't work.



HOMEMADE LAUNDRY SOAP:

Although many people have had positive experiences and said it not only saved them money but outperformed retail laundry detergent, quite a few folks were not satisfied with the results. They reported the ingredients were difficult to find, the soap never had the consistency they wanted, clothing turned gray, it didn't work well with hard water, batches were too large to store and it ended up either a goopy mess or the ingredients collected dust on the shelves. My advice is to give it a try, but mix a smaller batch and test it on rags first.

HOME REMEDIES:

Readers are often looking for home remedies for situations such as clogged drains, mild health issues and stain removal. These situations can be disastrous, dangerous and expensive when they go awry. Ask yourself whether you really want to mess around with your health, home repairs or expensive fabrics and clothing. One reader shared how she drank cranberry juice for what she thought was a bladder infection only to find herself in the emergency room.

COUPONS AND REBATES: Many readers buy items because of the rebates but either forget to mail the rebates or misplace the items needed to submit them. Years later, they found rebate forms and receipts in the most unlikely places. There have also been nightmare stories in which readers have been angry or embarrassed in stores when their coupons were not accepted. Read

the small print, know store policies, allow yourself enough time and be organized.

SALES: Some people buy items because they are on sale or cheap, but they don't actually need them. Garage sales, for example, are fun and offer many great bargains, but if you're buying stuff that you don't need, you're spending money you could be saving. Learn to separate wants from needs and recognize your spending triggers.

GADGETS: Convinced that the latest gadget will help save money, many people have bought products such as juicers, dehydrators, canners, food sealers and meat slicers. Simply put, they don't use them often enough to justify buying them. The majority of flops stemmed from their desire to bulk cook but not having time to or spending too much money on supplies and paying full price for food. Consider

your resources, such as whether you can buy the appliances secondhand or have a source for inexpensive food, such as a farmers market.

CLOTH DIAPERS: Many parents are interested in using cloth diapers. I've received countless letters from people who thought it was a great idea, but when it came right down to it, they hated using them. Cloth diapers are a wonderful option, but before investing in a large set, purchase a smaller sample set and see whether it works for you.

Sara Noel is the owner of Frugal Village (www.frugalvillage.com), a Web site that offers practical, money-saving strategies for everyday living. To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com

CALENDAR WATCH

Friday

■ Eucharistic Adoration, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, St. Dominic worship site, Donora, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Hall of Fame board to meet

The Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame board of directors will have its quarterly meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Holiday Inn Belle Vernon.

NAACP to meet in Monessen

The monthly business meeting of the Mon Valley NAACP will take place 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Mon Valley Community Health Center, Eastgate 8, fourth floor boardroom A, Monessen. Guest speaker will be Joyce J. Spangler, training coordinator from the commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Greensburg. She is interested in hiring qualified people to work in the prison system. Refreshments will be provided.

Rostraver '57 seeks classmates

Rostraver High School Class of 1957 is seeking addresses of the following classmates: Mary Ann Bester Labrasco, Elaine Cottingham, Charlotte Driver Cambridge, Thomas Edward Evan, Nanette Jenson, Carolyn Koons Mendola, Barbara Lanham Curka, Barbara Radek Kooser, Andrea Stewart. Anyone with information is asked to call Mary at (724) 684-7275.

Monessen '73 planning reunion

Monessen High School Class of 1973 will hold its 35th class reunion 1 p.m. May 24 at Cedar Creek Park in Rostraver Township. Anyone who has not received a reunion notice can contact Vicki Forgas at (412) 897-3418 or Marty Plevel at MartyPlevel@aol.com. Call by Jan. 15 so that the mailing list can be updated as soon as possible.

VALLEY CLUB NOTES

1st Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Junior Branch 157

On Dec. 1, members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Junior Branch 157 were hosted at their annual children's Christmas party. The event was held at the Epiphany Main Church hall on Knox Avenue in Monessen.

At 12:30 p.m. a catered luncheon was served. Under the direction of Alana Pike, games were played and crafts were completed with prizes being awarded. The Rev. David J. Nazimek, church pastor, visited with the children. Santa Claus made a stop and gave each child a "goody-bag treat" after which individual pictures with Santa were taken. Many of the children brought their "letters to Santa," which were deposited in the annual Santa mail-bag. The story of "The Birth of the Baby Jesus: The True Meaning of Christmas" was read to the children by Ruth J. Bielawski.

The party committee members were: Ruth J. Bielawski, junior branch financial secretary, chairperson; Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, senior branch president, co-chair; assisted by Verne Bellicini, RoseMary Betza, Alice Bialon, Pat Kovach, Lillian Plavko and Mary Ralston.

It can be a jungle (gym) out there

Moms' search for friends can resemble dating.

By JENNIFER FORKER
For The Associated Press

The pickup lines are the same. But they're delivered with a mommy twist.

"Do you come here (the playground) often?"

"Do you want to come to my place, or shall we go to yours?"

Mothers of young children, who a few years ago may have been looking for Mr. Right in a bar, now are seeking Mrs. Right and her kids in between the swings and the slides at the local playground.

Women also are going online to find moms who match their personality and interests, much like singles use an online dating service.

"You scope 'em out," says Magalie Belanger, 31, about prospective mommy-friends in Helena, Mont. "You see how they deal with their children, and with yours."

It's like dating, but the dates are with other moms and their children. While the kids play, hopefully without tantrums or biting, the moms are free to talk about the things they have in common, from the lofty subjects of religion and politics to the more practical topics of teething and diaper rash.

"Women, they want someone else who is going through the same thing,"



Maria Larson, left, Jenny Eck and Charlotte Lauerman, who are part of a group of friends that gathers often so they can spend time together while their children play, chat in this undated photo in Helena, Mt. Also pictured are kids Daniel Larson, left, and Owen Eck.

says Drury Sherrod, a Los Angeles social psychologist who studies friendship.

Often, that can mean seeking out other women in the same trimester of pregnancy or whose children are similar in age, he says.

Kate Harmon, 41, of Concord, Mass., recalls how 10 years ago she fell into the perfect support group while her husband was a graduate student in Boston. Three of the four moms gave birth in the same week, and the fourth a month later.

"None of us knew what

the heck we were doing," Harmon says. "The first year was fabulous. You had this tiny, little apartment ... you could just squosh in and hang out."

Such groups, primarily for stay-at-home moms or those who work part-time, help both new and seasoned moms on many levels. Sure, it's great to let off steam and talk about the day's toddler trials. But there's a practical benefit, too.

"Always there's somebody at that next milestone ahead of you," says Harmon. "You could say, 'What's going to happen next?'"

"You either felt like you were an expert - and you only went through it a week or two earlier - or you thought, 'Wow, they know a lot. This is great,'" she says.

Moms tend to hook up in one of two ways: They can go it alone, and find like-

minded moms at the playground, in their neighborhood, or through their children's schools and sports. Or they can network through national groups like the Moms Club, Mothers & More, newcomers clubs and Matchingmoms.org.

Belanger met her tight-knit group of mom friends through the Moms Club of Helena.

"I knew if I didn't have a club, I'd be stuck stalking people at the playground," she says.

She and her three friends are so close now, after a year and a half of playdates and girls' nights out, that they take overnights together with their kids. Last summer, they went huckleberry picking in Glacier National Park.

Another Helena mom, Anna Doran, moved to town about 4 months ago and

already has a close group of gal pals, thanks entirely to her 4-year-old daughter's soccer league and her older, tree-lined neighborhood, which has lots of young kids.

"Truly, I use my children to make friends," says Doran, a 31-year-old mother of two. "We have so much in common and there's so much to talk about."

Doran sees at least one of her friends, generally with kids in tow, daily. Several of them work out together at a nearby gym, where the day care is free, three times a week. And at night, the women occasionally head over to the downtown wine bar after the kids are tucked into bed.

"I've never had this (kind of friendship), even in college," says Doran. "I had a team, because I ran cross-country and track. I was really independent. I had my career."

"Now," she continues, "if I don't see my friends every day, I get really bummed out."

Moms should revel - guilt-free - in their tailor-made support groups because a few hours a day or week spent with female friends is good for your health, says Sherrod, the psychologist.

"The emotional support of friendship insulates people from stress," he says. "Friendship supplies the social and emotional support that has been proven to enhance health."

Seana Zimmer, 43, of Boulder, Colo., says she used to be fairly introverted. Then she became a mother.

"You're visibly, forcibly putting yourself out there," she says. "You're talking with people and finding commonalities and finding out if you match."

ODDS & ENDS

Michigan couple learns winning lottery ticket worth \$250,000

BAD AXE, Mich. (AP) — A lucky couple expecting to cash in their winning Michigan Lottery ticket became a bit peeved when a store clerk turned down their request.

Bad Axe gas station and convenience store owner Eli Kabban said the man and woman showed up Wednesday morning with what they thought was a \$150 winning ticket they'd bought Friday.

They complained when the clerk told them they would have to collect their winnings in Lansing, the state capital, 150 miles away.

Kabban said he took the couple into his office and explained the ticket was actually worth \$250,000. He says they were "in shock" at the news.

The couple asked that their names not be released, but Kabban told radio station WLEW-FM that they are getting financial advice on how to handle their windfall.

Leaders seek to squeeze the cheese out of Wisconsin's image

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — America's Dairyland wants you to know it's not just full of cheeseheads — and it's taking the mission seriously.

State lawmakers and the Department of Tourism are trying to come up with a new "brand" to explain why they think Wisconsin is a good place to visit, live and do business.

"We are the Green Bay Packers. We are a great agricultural state. We are America's Dairyland," said Rep. Steve Wicker, a Republican from Appleton. "But we are more than that."

Said Linda Gorchels, a marketing expert at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: "There are certain stereotypes that people have about Wisconsin, and it's very, very difficult to change those stereotypes. Nothing is going to happen very quickly."

Past slogans used in advertising campaigns have included "Wisconsin, life's so good." The state quarter includes a cow, a piece of cheese and corn.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: G equals R

"BTV YOLPBFCL CY BTV PGVNBFRV
NGBFHB PCLHFHBH FL WNXFLM
DNJH, LCB FL YCDDCJFLM DNJH
NDGVNIK WNIV." - YVGGOPPF C
A O H C L F

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "Better by far you should forget and smile / Than that you should remember and be sad." - Christina Rossetti

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BINGO!

ROSCOE VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. FRIDAY, JANUARY 4TH

20 REGULAR GAMES AT 125
(IF 150 OR MORE ARE PRESENT)

JACKPOT 2200 IN 56#5 OR LESS

1000 MUST GO CONSOLATION PRIZE

• 2 Magic Numbers • Double Bingo Jackpot • Starburst
• 450 in 15 Or Less • 1300 Total
• Cookie Jar 400+

Early Bird 7:00 p.m.
Regular Game 7:15 p.m.

Additional Cash Giveaways
\$10 ALL YOU CAN PLAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION....(724)938-3420

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-4712 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

FIRST HORIZON HOME LOANS, A DIVISION OF FIRST TENNESSEE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff

Vs

WAYNE ADAM STASKO,

Defendant

ALL that certain lot or piece of ground situate in the Village of Gastonville, Township of Union, County of Washington and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING at a post at the Northwest corner of lot 1 (said lot being the beginning and also the Southwest corner of land formerly of S. Lewis) thence extending Eastwardly 45 feet to a point, thence Southwardly 104 feet to a point, thence Eastwardly 115 feet to a point in line of land now of E. Osterlander, thence Southwardly 25 feet to a point in line of land now of A. Sessi, thence Westwardly 160 feet to a point, thence Northwardly along the Eastern side of land now of A. Sessi, 130 feet to the point or place of beginning.

ALSO, all the right, title interest property, estate, claim and demand whatsoever of the said party of the first part hereto, of, in and to a strip of ground 18 feet wide, extending from the Eastern side of the lot or parcel of land hereabove described, Eastwardly to the public road (which said public road leads from Gastonville toward Huston Run), and uses as a right of way as said strip of ground is described in and Article of Agreement between William Estes and J.J. Wene, Sr. dated March 20, 1902 and subject to the conditions set forth in said Article of Agreement.

Being designated as Parcel No. 640-009-01-03-0010-00 in the Deed Registry Office of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

BEING the same premises granted and conveyed unto John G. Sargent, unmarried, by deed from J. & S. Siler, a widow dated December 13, 1993 and of record in DBV 2552, page 275.

Premises, 3752 FINLEYVILLE CIRAMA ROAD, FINLEYVILLE, PA 15332

TAX PARCEL #640-009-01-03-0010-00

TITLE to said premises IS VESTED in Wayne Adam Stasko, by Deed from John G. Sargent and Deborah Sargent, a married couple, dated 11/12/2003, recorded 11/17/2003, in Deed Mortgage Inst# 200348515. Source of Title, 200348515 (Recorded 11/17/03).

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2006-1710 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CWBMS, INC. CWBMS REPERFORMING LOAN REMIC TRUST CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R2,

Plaintiff

Vs

JAMES A. CIBRONE
GLORY ANN CIBRONE,

Defendants

FIRST, All that certain tract of land situate in Union Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of a public road leading from Venetia to State Highway No. 88 at the northern corner of a 2 1/2 acre tract conveyed to George Gilbert Rostovsky, Et Ux, thence along George Gilbert Rostovsky, Et Ux, line south 34 degrees 30' west 300 feet, property now or formerly of John E. Garvin, Et Al, thence along said line in property north 34 degrees 30' west 37.58 feet, thence north 34 degrees 40' east 300 feet to the center of the public road above mentioned, thence along said public road south 73 degrees 30' east 87.58 feet to the point of beginning.

SECOND, All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in Union Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, being more fully bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point which said point is the north-west corner of the lands of the grantors herein conveyed to them by deed of Andrew A. Rostovsky, Jr., Et Ux, Et Al, by deed dated April 1, 1981, and recorded in deed book volume 1099, page 432, which point is common to the southerly side of a public road known as Mingo Church Road and the northeast corner of lands of the grantors herein, thence from said point south 34 degrees 40' west 17.00 feet to the point of beginning of the within described parcel, thence from said point of beginning, south 23 degrees 46' west, 124.80 feet to a point at an iron pin, thence south 43 degrees 02' 01" west, 162.18 feet (south 43 degrees 04' west, 162.10 feet on prior deed) to a point at an iron pin on line of lands now or formerly Andrew Funtal, thence along the lands now of the grantors herein, north 34 degrees 40' west, 124.80 feet to a point at the place of beginning. By deed dated 03/28/2003, recorded 03/31/2003.

TAX PARCEL NO. 640-011-00-00-0044-00

PREMISES, 448 Mingo Church Road, Finleyville, PA 15332.

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-5088 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2005-FPH3, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-FPH3 Plaintiff

Vs

BRUCE A. ANDERSON
CHERYL ANDERSON
Defendants

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot of ground situate in the Seventh (7th) Ward of the City of Washington, County of Washington and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, designated as the northeast end of Lot No. 214 in the plan of lots laid out by Jonathan Allison, et al, and called Allison & Company's Addition to Washington, Pennsylvania, as recorded in the Recorder's Office of Washington County in Plan Book Volume 2, page 110, said lot of ground hereby conveyed being thus described:

BOUND on the Northwest by Second Street, on the Northeast by Alley D, on the Southeast by Lot No. 213, and on the southwest by the line of the remainder of said Lot No. 214, being 60 feet in front of said Second Street and extending back of each width along the line of Alley D, a distance of 50 feet to Lot No. 213.

BEING DESIGNATED AS TAX MAP PARCEL: 770-003-00-01-0002-00, AND,

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot of ground situate in the Seventh (7th) Ward of the City of Washington, County of Washington and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being part of Lot No. 213 of Allison and Company Addition to Washington, Pennsylvania, as recorded in Plan Book 2, Page 110, as subdivided in the Hornickel Subdivision dated October, 1899, and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Washington County, in Plan Book 43, Page 33, and more particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING at an iron pin located North 47 degrees East, a distance of 90 feet from the east-south side of Donnan Avenue, said iron pin being on the dividing line of Lot No. 213 and Lot No. 212; thence from said point of beginning North 47 degrees East, a distance of 60 feet to an iron pin, thence South 43 degrees East, a distance of 50 feet to an iron pin, thence South 47 degrees West, a distance of 60 feet to an iron pin, and thence North 43 degrees West, a distance of 50 feet to an iron pin, the place of beginning.

BEING DESIGNATED AS TAX MAP PARCEL: 770-003-00-01-0023-01

BEING KNOWN AS: 340 Second Street, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

SUBJECT to prior grants and reservations of coal, oil, gas, mining rights, and to rights of way, easements, restrictions, reservations and exceptions as set forth in prior instruments of record.

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-5980 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

U.S. Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the Registered Holders of Asset Backed Securities Corporation, Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2004-HE6, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-HE6 Plaintiff

Vs

Sara K. Wolenski
Defendant

ALL that condominium property in Quail Run, a Condominium located in Peters Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania 112 Brooke Drive, Venetia, PA 15387

ALL that three dimensional air space for residential condominium structure to be known as unit No. 24-c of Quail Run Plan, Phase II, as recorded in the Recorder's Office of Washington County in Plan Book Vol. 17, Pages 78, 77 and 78 up to which is erected or will be constructed a three bedroom unit in the Condominium heretofore created under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and known as "Quail Run, a Condominium", situate in the township of Peters, County of Washington, Pennsylvania, as identified described and provided in documents recorded in the Recorder's Office of Washington County, Pennsylvania, as the same may be properly amended at any time before or after the date of this Deed in accordance with their terms and conditions and the applicable provisions of law all of which will be hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Condominium Documents".

THE Declaration Plan recorded on November 22, 1978 in PBV 16, Page 92-95, inclusive, and additional Declaration Plans recorded March 21, 1979 in PBV 17, Pages 15, 17 and June 15, 1979, in PBV 17, Pages 50-55, at Instrument No. 9791, Amendment No. 1 to Declaration Plan of Quail Run, recorded September 24, 1979, in PBV 17, Pages 66-71, inclusive, and subject to Sheets No. A#1-7 for Declaration Plan of Quail Run Phase II, recorded October 17, 1979, in PBV 17, Pages 75-78, inclusive, and subject to Sheet No. A#1-3 for Declaration Plan of Quail Run Phase II, recorded February 27, 1980, PBV 19, Pages 74-76, inclusive, PBV 19, Pages 122-123, Sheet No. A#1-4 June 23, 1980, PBV 19, Pages 142-143, Sheet No. A#1-5, recorded August 27, 1980, Subject to Sheet A#1-6 recorded in PBV 19, Page 177-178 on October 22, 1980 at Instr. No. 9811 & 9812 Subject to Sheet No. A#1-7 to Amendment No. 1 on December 2, 1980 at Instr. No. 11280 in PBV 19, Pages 193-197, inclusive. The Declaration of Condominium recorded on November 22, 1978 in deed book Vol. 1888, Page 152, and Amendment No. 1 to Declaration of Condominium recorded September 24, 1979, as Instr. No. 9791 in PBV 17, Page 236. The Code of Regulations recorded November 1978 in Deed Book Vol. 1888, Page 186. Together with the two-story Condominium structure with lower level and related improvements now existing within the above-described three dimensional air space in accordance with the said Condominium Documents, and together with any and all rights and privileges appurtenant to the above-described property of the Grantor.

BEING known and designated as Tax Parcel No. 540-002-00-00-0040-24C in the Deed Registry Office of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SPECIAL NOTICE ON REAL ESTATE SALES SHERIFFS RULE

Tax collectors, attorneys and solicitors who file tax statements, liens taxes and municipal liens against property being sold at Sheriff's Sale. Hereafter, no statements can be withdrawn or adjustments made after the property has been bid in at a certain price, therefore statements must be correct at the time of filing. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE.

SHERIFF SALES

Abstracts of properties taken in execution upon the writs shown, at the number and name shown, as the properties of the severally named defendants, owners or reputed owners, and to be sold by SAMUEL L. ROMANO, Sheriff of Washington County, Pennsylvania on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. in Public Meeting Room 104, Courthouse Square Building, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, Pennsylvania, Ten (10%) percent of the purchase money (but not less than the Sheriff's costs), shall be paid on the day of the sale and the balance on or before WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008 at 4:00 o'clock P.M.

It, however, such lien (10%) percent down payment not be made on the day of the sale, the property will again be exposed to sale immediately, on the date aforesaid. If balance of payment not be made on Wednesday following the date of sale, the property will again be put up for sale on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008 10:00 o'clock A.M. at the expense and risk of the person whom it was struck off, who in case of any deficiency on such sale, shall make good the same.

(COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES ARE ON FILE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT COURTHOUSE SQUARE, 100 WEST BEAU STREET, ROOM #303, WASHINGTON, PA.)

Notice is hereby given that a schedule of distribution will be filed by the Sheriff not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the sale and that distribution will be made in accordance with the schedule unless exceptions are filed thereto within ten (10) days thereafter. No further notice of the schedule of distribution will be given.

Claims against property must be filed before above sale date. Claims to proceed must be made before distribution. Schedule of distribution will be filed in this office no later than thirty (30) days from sale date. Exceptions to distribution must be filed no later than ten (10) days from the date when schedule of distribution is filed in this office. There will be no further notice of the filing of the schedule of distribution.

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

Sell your old stuff.

You can make fast cash the easy way! Clean out your closets, then sell all those unwanted items in the Classifieds.

2030/MEETING NOTICES

2030/MEETING NOTICES

2030/MEETING NOTICES

RESOLUTION #07-08-04 PUBLIC NOTICE

MID MON VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY 2008 PRE-SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Per approval by the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting of December 20, 2007, the following are the pre-scheduled dates for meetings in 2008:

Finance (5:00) p.m.	Board of Directors (6:00) p.m.	Human Resources (5:30) p.m.
January 16	January 24	January 8
February 19	February 28	
March 19	March 27	
April 18	April 25	
May 21	May 29	May 13
June 18	June 26	
July 16	August 28	August 12
August 20	September 25	
September 17	October 23	November 11
October 15	November 20	
November 19	December 17	

Sandy Davis
MMVTA Board Secretary
1/3

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-7818 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee and Custodian For EquiFirst Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-1 by Saxon Mortgage Services, Inc. as its Attorney-in-fact Plaintiff

Vs

David Neil Roach
Amanda R. Roach
(Mortgagor) Defendant(s)

By virtue of a Writ of Execution filed to No. 2007-7818, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee and Custodian for EquiFirst Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-1 by Saxon Mortgage Services Inc. as its attorney-in-fact vs. David Neil Roach and Amanda R. Roach (Mortgagor) owners of property situate in the TOWNSHIP OF SMITH, Washington County, Pennsylvania, being 307 Pleasant Valley Road (Smith Township), Bulger, PA 15019

Assessment Map No: 570-010-00-00-0008-021

Assessed Value Figure: \$23,525.00

Judgment Amount: \$332,109.84

Improvements Thereon: Residential Property

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-7723 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC. Plaintiff

Vs

RONALD J. KORINTUS
LEIGHA I. KORINTUS
Defendants

PARCEL ONE ALL that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Township of Carroll, County of Washington and State of Pennsylvania, more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point 260 feet from the property line of Edgar Isabell and Norma Isabell, his wife, thence North 39 degrees 16' East, 300 feet to a point on other lands of Grantors, thence North 10 degrees 44' West 250 feet, more or less, to a line of lands now or formerly of Collier, thence North 10 degrees 48' 30' West, for a distance of 175 feet, more or less to a point on other lands of the Grantors, thence South 39 degrees 16' west, 200 feet more or less, to line of property now formerly of Patrick Jones, his wife, thence South 50 degrees 44' East for a distance of 260 feet, more or less, to the property line of Edgar Isabell and Norma Isabell, his wife, the place of beginning.

PARCEL TWO: ALL that certain tract or parcel of land situate in the Township of Carroll, County of Washington and State of Pennsylvania, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point which is the terminus of a line referred to as South 75 degrees 48' 30' East, a distance of 381.77 feet to a point, thence from said place of beginning, North 76 degrees 48' 30' East, a distance of 381.77 feet to a point at a pin, thence severing other lands of Barney D. Stephens, et al, South 50 degrees 44' 00' East, a distance of 444.76 feet to a point at a railroad spike at or near the center line of a private lane, thence along the same, South 45 degrees 51' 20" West, a distance of 154.50 feet to a point in line of lands now or formerly of Patrick Jones, thence North 50 degrees 44' 00" West, a distance of 450.00 feet to a point at an iron pin, thence along the same, North 64 degrees 46' 00" West, a distance of 238.30 feet to a point at an iron pin at the place of beginning herein.

Source of Title ... 2728, 51 (Recorded 07/28/1995)

Premises, 7 ODESSA DRIVE, CHAERLOI, PA 15022

TAX PARCEL #130-011-00-00-0013-01

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

Improvements Thereon: Residential Property

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

If we don't have it, you don't need it.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-8226 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF NATIONAL CITY BANK Plaintiff

Vs

TIMOTHY SZIMINSKI
MARYJO SZIMINSKI
SERGIE SZIMINSKI & LINDA M. SZIMINSKI Defendants

ALL that certain message or lot of ground situate in the City (formerly Borough) of Washington, County of Washington, State of Pennsylvania, on the South Side of Prospect Avenue, on which it fronts (fully 150) feet and extends back Southward therefrom along the alley, two hundred (200) feet, to the Eastern line of the Court House, and on the North side of the Le Moyne Addition to the Borough of Washington

Source of Title 200534142 (Recorded 11/15/2006)

Premises 54 EAST PROSPECT AVENUE WASHINGTON, PA 15301

TAX PARCEL #750-016-00-00-0018-00

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-7852 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

SAID lot is comprised of Lots 437 and 438, plus the southerly half of an abandoned twelve foot alley, all in the Pittsburgh and Lehigh Valley Electric Corporation Plan of record in the Plan Book Volume 7, page 315

Title to said premises vested in Sergio Sziminski and Linda M. Sziminski, husband and wife, and Timothy Sziminski and Mary Jo Sziminski, husband and wife, by Deed from Sergio Sziminski and Linda M. Sziminski, husband and wife, dated 01/27/2004, recorded 02/04/2004, in Deed Mortgage Inst #200402484

Premises 3 HOME-STEAD DRIVE, AVELLA, PA 15312

ASSESSMENT: \$10,425.00

TAX PARCEL #370-005-02-03-0018-00

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

SHERIFF SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2007-8199 issued out of the COMMON PLEAS of Washington County, and to me directed on which inquisition and exemption are waived, there will be exposed at public sale in the Courthouse Square Building, Room 104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301, Washington County, at 10:00 A.M. on FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

EVERHOME MORTGAGE COMPANY Plaintiff

Vs

ELIZABETH WELLING Defendant

All that certain lot or parcel of land, situate in the Village of Burnsville, Township of West Finley, and County of Washington, Pennsylvania, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stone at the Southwest corner of the dwelling house located on the lot situated on the Clayville Road with the West Alexander Road, known as Main Street in said Village, thence by the Clayville Road, North 48 30 degrees East 133.65 feet to a point at lower side of said road, thence North 27 degrees West 33 feet to a stake, thence North 33 51 degrees East 82.87 feet to a point in said road, thence North 55 degrees West 12.45 feet to a point above the road, thence North 35 30 degrees East 58 feet to a point above the road, thence 26 15 degrees East 66.60 feet to a point at the road, thence along lot of C. McDaid, South 43 30 degrees East 120 feet to a point, thence along same line, the lots of Alvin, North 26 15 degrees East 240 feet to a point common to land of said Alvin, thence along the tract herein described, thence along land of said Flora Mahan, South 43 30 degrees East 48.10 feet to a point common to lands of Flora Mahan, Jesse McCombs and the within described tract, thence by land of Jesse McCombs, South 48 degrees West 580.80 feet to a point, thence along Main Street, North 27 degrees West 300 feet to a point, thence South 82 degrees West 64 feet to a point, thence North 28 degrees West 23 10 feet to a point, thence South 82 degrees West 64 feet to a point, thence along Main Street in the Village of Burnsville, North 26 degrees West 42 feet to the Southwest corner of dwelling house, the place of beginning.

TITLE TO SAID PREMISES IS VESTED IN Elizabeth Welling, by Deed from Charles Welling, dated 02/14/2003, recorded 03/03/2003, 200308455.

Source of Title 200308455 (Recorded 03/03/03)

Premises: 6 BURNSVILLE RIDGE ROAD, WEST FINLEY, PA 15377

TAX PARCEL: #690-018-01-00-0032-00

Samuel F. Romano, Sheriff 1/3,10,17

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